

Battle looming for Mogadishu

MOGAIDSHU (AFP) — A battle for Mogadishu airport is looming as U.N. troops depart.

Rival chieftains told AFP separately here that their militias would control it, and defend it.

The 8,000 U.N. troops remaining at the airport, the port, and in the city, will all leave Somalia by late March following the failure of rival warlords to agree on a government of national unity for this lawless Horn of Africa nation.

The dozen or so relief agencies remaining in Somalia are planning to withdraw their expatriates — mostly to Nairobi — until the situation settles.

The departure of the U.N. troops will be protected by an amphibious fleet from the United States, France, Britain, Italy, Pakistan and Malaysia. U.N. Special Representative Victor Ghebho of Ghana told AFP.

U.S. marines will come ashore in the final stages as the last soldiers leave, he said.

After that, with no government in place, the port and the airport, with their lucrative fees, will be up for grabs by rival militias, with the victors able to import ammunition, weapons and other supplies.

Both are in south Mogadishu, which is mostly controlled by General Mohamed Farah Aided, but the Abgali sub-clan of self-styled President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, who controls north Mogadishu, holds the strategic enclave of Medina just beside the airport.

The Abgali, a sub-clan of the Hawiye, chased the Mursade, another Hawiye sub-clan, out of Medina late last year after Mursade leader mohammad Qanyare Afrah switched allegiance from Mr. Ali Mahdi to Gen. Aided.

The victorious Abgali commander in Medina, Musa Sudi Yalaho, told AFP in his battered enclave: "It is my responsibility to run the airport. We consider it our property, so we shall defend it if Aided's men try to loot it. The airport will be fully controlled by us because of its proximity to Medina."

Mr. Qanyare Afrah, who chaired a "peace confer-

ence" of 13 factions in south Mogadishu to plan a government under Gen. Aided, told AFP that "we are preparing forces to defend" the port and airport.

Various proposals are circulating in Mogadishu for joint north-south committees to run the two facilities, but Mr. Qanyare Afrah said flatly: "Ali Mahdi will not participate. If he wants war he will get it."

Both Mr. Yalaho and Mr. Qanyare Afrah said they would respect the 33-hectare U.S. embassy compound in south Mogadishu, which the United Nations has just evacuated, but both said they would fight for it if the other side occupied it.

The compound is defended at the moment by 950-strong security battalions of Pakistani troops, but they will abandon it after contractors finish removing U.N. equipment, a process expected to take about a month.

It will then be handed back to the U.S. government.

Battles for the port appear less likely, as it is in an area occupied by militias whose leaders all owe allegiance to Gen. Aided.

Mr. Yalaho conceded that "I can't say the port is ours."

Gen. Aboo Samah Ben Abo Bakar, the Malaysian commander of the U.N. forces, said he expected there might be some demonstrations as the last U.N. troops left, and maybe some throwing of stones, but added: "I don't expect much troubles."

The protection force — two French warships are already here — will send up helicopter gunships as the U.N. troops depart, with firepower far superior to the battered pick-up battle-wagons known as "technicals," which circulate in Mogadishu armed with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns.

The militias also use mortars, recoilless rifles, and 145mm cannon, but have no tanks, aircraft, or ships.

Gen. Aboo said he was satisfied with security at the dusty airport, which is now home to the remaining U.N. civilians, but that it was being reviewed.

King meets aid foundation official

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court on Tuesday with Joseph Locke, vice-president of the International Ambassador Foundation based in Pasadena, California.

The foundation has been providing assistance to Jordan since 1982 in the form of expertise and technical aid to rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's deep appreciation to Mr. Locke and his foundation for the assistance to the Kingdom, and listened to Mr. Locke's briefing on the activities of the foundation which was established in 1975.

Mr. Locke told the Jordan Times later that since 1982 the foundation has given special attention to Jordan where he paid tribute to their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath for spearheading efforts in



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives International Ambassador Foundation (Petra photo) Joseph Locke, vice-president of the U.S.-based

caring for handicapped children. The foundation has 23 of its trained volunteers work-

ing for Jordanian centres that help the handicapped, Mr. Locke added. The foundation, he said,

provides similar assistance to centres in Sri Lanka and Thailand but with a smaller number of volunteers.

Poland smuggled U.S. agents in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Six U.S. agents who were trapped inside Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, were rescued and smuggled out to Turkey with the help of Polish intelligence, the Washington Post newspaper said Tuesday.

The operation, headed by a Polish agent who had spied against the United States during the cold war, prompted Washington to help Warsaw slash its \$33 billion foreign debt by half, unidentified Polish and U.S. officials told the daily.

Washington turned to Poland for help in rescuing its agents because of extensive construction work carried out in Iraq by Polish engineering firms, the officials said.

A similar request was rebuffed by Britain and France, who were concerned about their own nationals who had been taken as "human shields" against foreign attacks by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the officials added.

The U.S. agents, from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Defence Intelligence Agency according to American officials, were in Iraq to monitor Iraqi troop movements near the border with Kuwait.

After the Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the U.S. agents escaped the crackdown on foreigners by being given refuge at a Polish construction camp outside Baghdad, the sources added.

A group of Polish intelligence agents were trained for several weeks by the CIA before being smuggled into Iraq, where they worked out the details of the American's rescue with the help of Polish civilians.

Asked if they felt uncomfortable helping their former cold war foes, the Polish intelligence officer said no. "We said these guys are our colleagues. We had to help them," one officer said.

The Americans were provided false passports from Slavic countries.

After a series of false starts, the U.S. agents, none of whom spoke Polish, were piled into a convoy of cars for their drive to the Turkish border.

North of Mosul, they were stopped by an Iraqi military officer who was quickly moved away from the cars by a Polish technician who complimented him on his fluent Polish and talked about the friendship between their two countries.

Given the passports to be

checked, the Iraqi officer brushed them aside saying: "No problem. You are friends, you can go."

Fearing border guards would ask the Americans their assumed Slavic names, which they were unable to pronounce, the Polish agents tried to get their friends drunk on whiskey with no luck, the officials said.

Nevertheless, the U.S. agents managed to cross the border safely on foot, the officials added.

No precise date for the rescue operation was given, other than it took place in the fall of 1990.

"It was high-risk," then CIA director William Webster told the daily, adding that the Poles "deserve a lot of credit."

"It was a good beginning for our relationship in the future," said Mr. Webster, whom the daily said travelled to Poland early November 1990 with a letter from then President George Bush announcing his intention to press other governments to forgive \$16.5 billion of Poland's foreign debt.

After the rescue operation, the daily said, Polish agents went on to free 15 other foreigners, most of them Britons, who had been taken hostage by Iraq.

Iryani visits U.S.

SANAA (AFP) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani left Sanaa Tuesday for Washington to discuss regional issues following a tense standoff on Yemen's border with Saudi Arabia, the official news agency SABA reported.

Dr. Iryani, also deputy prime minister, said he would review "regional developments" with U.S. officials.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for the Middle East Robert Pelletreau made a series of visits to Sanaa at the start of the May-July Yemeni civil war last year, calling for "reconciliation" between northern and southern forces.

Karem Mahmoud dies at 72

By Hassan Abu Ghanimeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Famous Egyptian singer, Karem Mahmoud, who died in London two days ago at the age of 72, was considered by the artistic community in Egypt as one of Egypt's best and most popular singers.

Mahmoud's songs were popular throughout the Arab World, and many artists placed him on the same level with other gifted singers like Farid Al Atrash, Abdul Halim Hafez and Mohammad Fawzi whose songs were popular in Egypt and the rest of the Arab World in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

Mahmoud, who died after a heart surgery, also featured in 25 movies and was reported to have recorded 300 songs, the most famous of which was "Innabi."

Mahmoud, who was laid to rest in his hometown near Cairo Tuesday, developed his talents since an early age. He joined the national Arab Music Conservatory in Cairo in 1938.

He joined the "Golden Tunes" troupe and took part in traditional concerts at Cairo theatres.

Mahmoud's contemporaries in Egyptian cinema included Shadia, Najah Salam, Sharifah Maher and Laila Fawzi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3,000 Jerusalemites take Israeli citizenship

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — About 3,000 Palestinians living in East Jerusalem applied for and were granted Israeli citizenship in 1994, an interior ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The ministry accepted 1,075 requests last year compared with 612 in 1993 and 293 in 1990. One request can cover several members of the same family. Israeli citizenship provides greater freedom of movement both within the country and abroad for Jerusalem Palestinians who are otherwise classed as "permanent residents." Palestinians have to prove they have lived in Jerusalem for three of the previous five years, have a clean record and speak basic Hebrew to become Israeli citizens. Palestinian leaders oppose taking Israeli citizenship which they believe reinforces Israeli control of the Holy City. The ministry said it did not have figures for the total number of Jerusalem Palestinians with Israeli citizenship. Some 155,000 Palestinians live in Jerusalem which has a population of 567,000.

Canadian officer to stand trial on death of Somali

PETAWAWA, Ontario (AP) — A Canadian army captain charged in the torture and beating death of a Somali teenager lost his bid Monday to have the case thrown out and will face a court martial. A military judge-advocate ruled that Capt. Michael Sox must face a military court on charges stemming from the death of Shidane Arone, 16, in March 1993 while in the custody of Canadian forces at their base in the town of Belet Huen. Capt. Sox is charged with negligent performance of duty and causing bodily harm. The defence had argued that Capt. Sox can not get a fair trial because of the intense media coverage of the case. But the judge-advocate ruled that's only speculation. Capt. Sox is the last of 10 members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment to be tried in the case. All but three of the previous nine were acquitted. The most severe penalty was to Pvt. Kyle Brown, convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to five years in prison. Pvt. Brown's lawyer is seeking to appeal the case to the supreme court. Master Corporal Clayton Matchee, believed to be the main instigator of the incident, suffered severe brain damage when he attempted to hang himself and was ruled unfit to stand trial. Capt. Sox's trial has been adjourned until Feb. 21.

Restoration work begins at Al Azhar Mosque

CAIRO (AFP) — Restoration work began Monday on the 10th-century Al Azhar Mosque in the centre of Cairo, its Grand Sheikh Gad Ali Haq Ali Gad Ali Haq said. The work, costing \$18 million, will be paid for largely by Al Azhar, the highest Sunni Muslim authority, a reconstruction ministry spokesman said. The project is expected to last four years. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has offered \$3 million towards the restoration and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has pledged \$100,000, the spokesman said. The mosque was founded in 970 by Egyptian rulers. It spreads over one hectare and boasts five minarets, 300 marble columns, a library and a university of 30,000 students.

Diplomats see Algerian foreign ministry chief

ALGIERS (AFP) — European ambassadors to Algiers had a meeting Monday with Algerian Foreign Minister Secretary-General Abdel Kader Tafer for "an exchange of views on matters of common interest," a ministry spokesman said. It gave no further details on the meeting, which came three days after opposition groups called for negotiations with the military-backed government after a joint conference in Rome. The talks also took place nine days after the expiry of an ultimatum allegedly issued by the extreme fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group for a number of Western embassies in Algiers to close. Also Monday President Liamine Zouerat saw Algerian ambassadors and consuls based in a number of Western capitals, and asked them "to explain the approach of the Algerian state at the present time." Algiers condemned the Rome conference beforehand as being allegedly manipulated by foreign interests, and has yet to react officially to its resolution.

Tourism revenue up again in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Revenue from tourism in Egypt increased 29.4 per cent in the second half of last year despite continued attacks by Muslim extremists on foreign visitors, Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Beltagi said Monday. "Good signs of recovery in tourism were recorded in the second half of 1994. Revenue reached in that period 2.08 billion pounds (around \$600 million), an increase of 29.4 per cent on the same period of the previous year," Mr. Beltagi was quoted as saying by Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA). The minister gave no figure for tourism receipts in the whole of 1994, but they were expected to be still far below the 1992 figure of three billion dollars. Revenue from tourism plunged to \$1.3 billion in 1992 after fundamentalist attacks which have killed 12 Western tourists since March of that year.

Iranian on trial in Sweden for killing in Japan

SUNDSVALL, Sweden (AFP) — A Swedish court will try an Iranian refugee who has confessed to killing a woman in Japan in 1992, a prosecutor said. The unidentified Iranian, who was wanted by Interpol, faces a 10-year jail term if convicted. Prosecutor Christer van der Kwast said in this port town 400 kilometres north of Stockholm. He could have been sentenced to death if tried in Japan. The Iranian is in jail in Haerlesand, 45 kilometres north of Sundsvall. The Iranian had confessed to killing a Japanese woman in a suburban Tokyo apartment in April 1992, the prosecutor said. He has been wanted by Interpol since the killing, in which he hit the woman on the head with a bottle and stabbed her repeatedly after an argument.

No letup in South Lebanon war of attrition

By Hala Boucompagni
Agence France Presse

BEIRUT — Israel's war of attrition against Arab guerrillas in South Lebanon has shown no sign of slackening despite progress on other tracks of the peace process.

The two sides have vowed to destroy each other and clashes erupt almost daily.

The guerrillas launched some 25 attacks against Israeli troops and their proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in South Lebanon in the first half of January.

The violence, which has rocked South Lebanon since Israel invaded the country and first deployed there nearly 20 years ago, has reached a new peak while Lebanese-Israeli peace talks remain deadlocked pending progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Hizbollah vows to press on with its crusade and liberate South Lebanon from Israeli occupation while its arch enemy says peace depends on dismantling the guerrillas.

Buoyed by fresh statements of support from Tebrao and Damascus, which deploys 35,000 troops in Lebanon, Hizbollah launched during attacks Monday and Tuesday on Israeli and SLA forces in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

The guerrillas even carried out operations from the southern sector of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley — a front which had remained dormant for several months.

Israel struck back with air raids and a barrage of shelling on villages north of the border strip, wounding five civilians since the start of the year and damaging more than 50 homes.

An SLA militiaman was killed and four were wounded in some 25 guerrilla attacks since the start of the year.

Four Israeli soldiers were also wounded over the same period while four guerrillas were killed and five civilians wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accompanied by senior officers went to the zone Thursday to show support for Israeli troops and boost the flagging morale of the SLA, which has taken the brunt of the recent attacks.

Mr. Rabin shook hands with SLA commander Antoine Lahd, a retired Lebanese army general, and pledged that Israel "will only agree to make peace with Lebanon if Hizbollah is dismantled... and the SLA integrated into the Lebanese army."

He warned Hizbollah of punitive action if it con-

tinued attacks on the "security zone."

However, Hizbollah's political officer for South Lebanon Haj Hassan Hoballah told AFP that Lebanese army soldiers who had joined the SLA, including Gen. Lahd, had been struck off army lists.

Despite the launch of the Middle East peace process in October 1991, fighting has continued unabated in South Lebanon, where 19 Israeli soldiers and 34 SLA militiamen were killed in 1994.

Faced with an upsurge of guerrilla attacks in December, Israeli generals warned they would go on the offensive.

Lebanese police say that in a bid to counter Hizbollah's improved tactics, Israel has resorted to its own style of guerrilla warfare, seeding guerrillas north of the zone despite having dropped such methods in 1993.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Diplodo
17:30 Thalassa
18:30 Musique Sans Frontiers
19:00 News in French
19:30 Home Improvement
19:45 E=MC²
20:00 Quantum Leap
20:30 Lorenzo's Oil
21:10 Law and Order
22:00 News in English
22:30 Snowy River
23:00 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

06:10 Fajr
06:37 Sunrise
11:45 Dhuhur
14:35 Asr
16:59 Maghreb
18:28 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel: 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel: 625735
St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 627440
De la Salle Church Tel: 661757
Terrence Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 622541

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Rain is expected in all the regions particularly in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. The clouds will be cloudy to partly cloudy with winds westerly active in Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman 17
Aqaba 6/16
Deserts 2/9
Jordan Valley 7/15

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Karan 740294
Dr. Jalal Ibrahim 847551
Dr. Walid Al Masri 875485
Dr. Abdul Wabed Awad 940701
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 750236
Al Asena pharmacy 621055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626750
Al Salam pharmacy 626750
Yacoub pharmacy 644355
Shmeisani pharmacy 657660
Nairoukh pharmacy 626750
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shogairi 249140
Al Ouds pharmacy 1-1
ZARQA:
Dr. Rajah Saqr 901290
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 627111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 626441
Rescue Police 627111
Fire Brigade 671101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843502
Police Security Department 627111
Hotel Complaints 626400
Prison Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 627111
Complaints 847467
Amman Municipality 747111
Complaints 747111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010291
Central Amman Telephone 625101
Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 723111
Radio Jordan 723111
Water Authority 880100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 826881
RJ Flight Information 6825200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 6825200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381372
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 626140
Palestine, Shmeisani 661714
Shmeisani Hospital 669151
University Hospital 642545
Al-Musash Hospital 662279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661666
Italian, Al-Musharafa 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511226
Army, Sharika 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60240250
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09463323
Zarqa National Hospital 09463323
Ben Sina Hospital 09463323
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09463323
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02127555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02127555
Ben Al-Nufies Hospital 02127555
40484
Princess Haya Hospital 02131411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: 08153200. 5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:45 Aqaba (RJ)
08:25 Jeddah (RJ)
08:55 Beirut, Lebanon (RJ)
09:25 Athens (OA)
09:30 Amsterdam (KL)
10:30 Rome (RJ)
10:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
10:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05 Istanbul (RJ)
11:10 Colombo (RJ)
11:35 Beirut (RJ)
11:40 Bangkok (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
11:50 Athens (OA)
12:30 Amsterdam (KL)
12:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
13:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:20 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
13:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
13:35 Rome (RJ)
13:40 Beirut (RJ)
13:45 Sharjah (AH)
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:30 London (BA)
10:30 Jeddah (SV)
10:45 Damascus (AZ)
12:35 Athens (OA)
14:35 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
14:45 Rome (RJ)
15:00 Beirut (RJ)
15:05 Athens (OA)
15:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
07:30 Rome (RJ)
08:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
08:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
08:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05 Istanbul (RJ)
11:10 Colombo (RJ)
11:35 Beirut (RJ)
11:40 Bangkok (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
11:50 Athens (OA)
12:30 Amsterdam (KL)
12:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
13:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:20 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
13:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
13:35 Rome (RJ)
13:40 Beirut (RJ)
13:45 Sharjah (AH)
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (MS)
08:30 Cairo (MS)
11:30 London (BA)
11:35 Athens (OA)
11:40 Jeddah (SV)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
11:50 Athens (OA)
12:30 Amsterdam (KL)
12:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
13:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:20 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
13:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
13:35 Rome (RJ)
13:40 Beirut (RJ)
13:45 Sharjah (AH)
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 200/100
Carrot 200/100
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumbers (large) 240/140
Cucumbers (small) 440/300
Eggplant 320/180
Garlic 800/500
Grape Fruit 260/180
Lemon 280/180
Marrow (large) 180/100
Marrow (small) 300/200
Onion (green) 300/200
Onion (dry) 350/250
Orange 700/500
Pepper (hot) 600/400
Pepper (sweet) 400/300
Potato 350/200
Radish 200/100
Spinach 200/100
String Beans 950/600
Tomato 380/240

Panel seeks to e

congenital di

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

Introducing national programmes for congenital diseases through the education of parents and proposing their inclusion in schools.

Higher education was a top priority of the committee formed by the Ministry of Health and Professional Council (BPWC) to look into the problem of congenital diseases.

Some suggested after a two-day session last week on congenital diseases that the committee should focus on the early detection of congenital diseases and disseminating information to minimise the risk of such conditions on the affected person and on the community.

The committee is planning to propose new legislation that requires couples to undergo a blood test. Last year, the government introduced a law that would require couples to take blood tests before their nuptials to detect if either partner has any disease or genetic problems that could result in their children being born with congenital diseases or retardation.

There has been a heated debate about this issue in the past few years, going to the extent of discussing the possibility of a Butheina director of one of the hospitals.

She told Tuesday's session that the committee is planning to propose new legislation that requires couples to undergo a blood test. Last year, the government introduced a law that would require couples to take blood tests before their nuptials to detect if either partner has any disease or genetic problems that could result in their children being born with congenital diseases or retardation.

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BRIEF

Israeli citizenship

EP — About 3,000 Israelis applied for and were accepted for Jordanian citizenship in 1993 and 293 in 1994. The number of Israelis who have become Jordanians is expected to increase in 1995.

on death of Somali

Canadian army captain who was killed in Somalia last week. The death of the captain, who was 35, was a heavy blow to the Canadian forces in Somalia.

Al Azhar Mosque

Monday on the anniversary of the death of the late President Nasser. The mosque was filled with people who came to pay tribute to the late president.

align ministry chief

Minister of Education, Dr. Obaidat, is expected to visit the Ministry of Education in Amman to discuss the results of the tawjihi examinations.

again in Egypt

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Seminar to familiarise media with IMF activities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Journalists and columnists as well as representatives of the electronic media from Jordan and other Arab countries are expected to get first-hand information and assessments of the activities and programmes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in various countries in the region during a symposium to be held in Amman next week.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to open the Jan. 21-22 event organised by the Amman-based Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies, an affiliate of the 22-member Arab League.

The event is being held at a time when government officials and economists say many journalists covering economic and financial issues lack the proper background to do a justifiable job. Journalists counter the criticism by pointing out that they have little or no access to specialised sources where issues are discussed in simplified forms and supported by revealing data.

They also complain that many aspects of IMF programmes in the Arab World are kept as tightly-guarded secrets if only because detailed revelations of IMF-prescribed plans might preempt many measures that are expected to be implemented by the governments.

In the case of Jordan, officials have often admitted that criticism levelled at the fiscal restructuring programme under way in the Kingdom appeared to stem from ambiguous understanding of the programme itself.

Islamist and leftist deputies in Parliament are the harshest critics of the programme, and officials put the blame partly on the media, saying that the situation would have been different if the media, including many reporters and columnists, had presented the various aspects of the programme in detail and in the "right perspective" rather than generalising it as heralding difficult times for the common man.

But in the absence of accurate, reliable and substantiated details, journalists say, they are unable to project a more coherent picture of the programme.

The Amman seminar is expected to be addressed by IMF experts as well as by leading officials handling government approach to economy and finance in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and several other Arab countries.

The seminar, part of the efforts of the Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies to highlight "the role of the media in handling economic and financial issues," will involve working papers as well as panel discussions, said Khalil Al Shamma, deputy chief of the institute.

The event is the first of its kind to be organised by the institute and will be held under the title "The International Monetary Fund and the Arab World — Realities and Prospects."

Dr. Shamma expressed hope that media representatives attending the seminar would benefit from the first-hand information tabled and discussed there in that they would be able to acquire details of various IMF programmes in countries with differing economic features.

The IMF representatives will be discussing the fund's activities and future programmes in the different Arab countries and government officials will present their own views on the IMF programmes, Dr. Shamma said.

Journalists from all sorts of media are being invited to the event, Dr. Shamma said, expressing hope that the outcome of the seminar would be enlightening the media on the realities of economic restructuring programmes and other IMF activities in the Arab World.

The Arab Institute for Financial and Banking Studies was established in 1988. It maintains close ties with other Arab League and regional organisations as well as with international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank.

King receives visiting minister; Jordanian-Yemeni ties discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court the visiting Yemeni minister of administrative reform, Sadeq Abu Ras, and reviewed with him Yemeni-Jordanian relations.

During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Administrative Development Mohammed Toq, the Yemeni minister stressed his country's need for Jordanian expertise in civil service and public administration. King Hussein promised all help concerning this domain.

The Yemeni minister earlier visited the University of Jordan and met with its president, Fawzi Gharraibeh, with whom he discussed prospects of cooperation in training Yemeni personnel in public administration affairs.

Dr. Gharraibeh briefed the minister and his accompanying delegation on the different courses which could benefit Yemeni officials specialising in public administration.

Mr. Abu Ras's Under-Secretary, Hussein Al Hajri, and a team of Yemeni officials Tuesday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and were briefed by its vice-president, Saeed Alouloush, on the RSS projects. They discussed areas where Yemeni officials and personnel can benefit from the RSS training courses.

Coinciding with the Yemeni delegation's visit to Jordan, the department in charge of developing exports at the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced Tuesday that Yemen has recently purchased a shipment of Jordanian ready-made garments worth \$274,000 and shoes worth \$92,000.

The department said that the transaction was agreed upon during a recent visit to Yemen by a department delegation which met with the Yemeni business community.

The statement said that agreement was also reached on exporting \$261,000 worth of gas cookers to Yemen by the end of January.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court the visiting Yemeni minister of administrative reform, Sadeq Abu Ras, and reviewed with him Yemeni-Jordanian relations.

67 tawjihi students have exams cancelled for cheating

AMMAN (J.T.) — Due to cheating during the tawjihi examinations which were held earlier this month, 67 students had their mid-year examinations entirely cancelled and 272 others had one subject cancelled, according to a senior official at the Ministry of Education which organised the examinations.

Mohammad Obaidat, director of the Examinations Department at the ministry, said that another 132 students were barred from taking the examination altogether because they had been absent from classes for more than 40 days during the first term of the current scholastic year.

The process of marking and grading the examination papers is due to be completed by the end of this week and the final results will be announced in the first week of February, said Dr. Obaidat.

Eleven thousand teachers were enlisted to supervise the examinations in 1,130 halls around the country and 5,500 teachers are currently involved in the process of assessing the students' performances, said Dr. Obaidat.

Referring to the questions given to the students, Dr. Obaidat said they were set in accordance with this year's syllabus and sufficient time was given to the students to answer them. In the industrial stream, the ministry found that the first question was not correct and instructed the teachers to adjust the grades accordingly.

Reports in the local press said that most of the students in the scientific stream had complained about the insufficient time given them to answer the physics questions, but the ministry stresses that there were no other problems except for the industrial stream's question.

According to Dr. Obaidat, 84,301 students sat for the examinations in Jordan. Their papers are being scrutinised in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Karak and Maan centres.



Students taking the tawjihi examinations (File photo)

Efforts under way to solve deadlock over vegetable oil exports to Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Chamber of Industry is trying to end a deadlock between Jordanian processors of vegetable oil and Iraqi importers over purchase agreements signed but unfulfilled because of the orders.

The problem arose when the vegetable oil processors and exporters found themselves unable to execute orders from Iraq at the prices originally agreed upon since international prices of raw material — mainly Malaysian palm oil — shot up dramatically in the past few months, according to Chamber of Industry officials.

It is estimated that the Jordanian vegetable oil companies had received orders accompanied by relevant letters of credit for 75,000 tonnes of vegetable oil in the latter half of 1994. The letters of credit provided for partial shipments but were non-negotiable as far as prices were concerned.

The companies sent partial shipments of oil to Iraq, but as prices of palm oil climbed in Malaysia and elsewhere they found that the prices that they had agreed to with the Iraqi importers would not cover their production costs, said a Chamber of Industry official.

The exporters sought to renegotiate the prices, but in view of the conditions of the letters of credit they were unable to do so. The Iraqi importers resisted the prices sought by the exporters and hence the deadlock.

"Oil prices have gone up from \$500 a tonne to more than \$700 between the time the letters of credit were opened and today," said a senior official of the Chamber of Industry. "As such, the exporters are unable to meet the unfulfilled parts of the orders."

The exporters, who process raw oil and repack it in containers specified by the Iraqi importers, are reportedly willing to cut down on their prices but not to a level that would not cover their actual production costs.

The whole affair involves about 63,000 tonnes of oil valued at about \$4.25 million at pre-dispute prices.

The exporters are demanding \$900 per tonne of processed oil while the price in the letters of credit is \$675 per tonne.

Iraqi government officials and importers raised the deadlock with a delegation headed by Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, which visited Iraq early this month, and requested the chamber's intervention to resolve the dispute.

"We are now trying to reach a common ground and solve the issue," said the Chamber of Industry official.

"After all, we have to ensure that trade relations between Jordan and Iraq are maintained and nurtured in the interests of both parties."

According to Iraqi sources, any substantial raise in prices for vegetable oil was seen as unacceptable to the Iraqi importers if only because of the resultant increase in the market prices in Iraq at a time when the people of that nation already are suffering under hyperinflation as a result of the four-year-old international sanctions against their country.

"A formula has to be found to solve the problem for the sake of Jordanian-Iraqi business relations, particularly that such problems as the vegetable oil crisis come at a time when Jordan is trying to ensure a share of the Iraqi market in a post-sanctions period," said an industry source.

Mr. Abu Hassan, the chamber of industry president, met with representatives of the exporting firms and discussed the problem two days ago in Amman. It was not immediately known whether any definite formula emerged from the meeting that would satisfy both sides.

In comments carried in the local press, Mr. Abu Hassan emphasised the need to maintain strong relations with the Iraqi people "at their time of need."

Panel seeks to educate society on congenital diseases, disabilities

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Introducing educational programmes concerning disabilities and congenital diseases through the media and proposing their implementation in schools, colleges and higher education institutes was a top priority of the committee formed by the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) to follow up on the recommendations suggested after the conclusion of a two-day conference last week on disabilities and congenital diseases.

The 10-member committee, which finalised its objectives Tuesday, stressed the need for early detection of congenital diseases and disabilities during pregnancy and ways to minimise the effects of such conditions on the affected person and on society.

Moreover, the committee is planning to propose new legislation that requires couples considering marriage to undergo a blood test. Last year, the government introduced a draft law that would require couples to take blood tests before their nuptials to determine if either partner suffers from any disease or other genetic problems that could result in their children being born with congenital malformation or retardation.

"We realise that there has been a big debate about this issue in the past, but we are going to try again, by introducing new legislation to be followed by awareness lectures and campaigns," said Butheinah Jandaneh, general director of the BPWC and one of the committee members.

She told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the BPWC will organise several meetings and interviews with specialised people and will distribute pamphlets in rural areas and small towns "where most inter-marriages occur."

"We are going to request from the concerned authorities that they provide the necessary equipment to test women during and after pregnancy," she added.

The committee recommended focusing on educating women on the importance of proper health care during and after pregnancy.

The experts also suggested designating a day for hereditary diseases and inviting biology and health education professors to lecture and discuss the latest discoveries in their fields.

In addition, the committee suggested establishing a national library in Arabic to provide help and services to mothers and the society in general regarding disabilities and congenital diseases, and to follow up on the latest developments.

The committee includes Mohammad Khatib, a biology professor, Abdul Karim Al Qudah, a professor of paediatric medicine, and Halah Kheimi, a biology professor, all three from the University of Jordan; Hatem Shanti, professor of genetics at the Jordan University of Science and Technology; Sana Saqf Al Heit, expert in diagnosis of hereditary diseases, and Muna Hamzeh, director of health education, both of the Ministry of Health; Sima Bahous, information and communication officer at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Haifa Ghazal, of the Psychological Guidance Society; and Hind Abdul Jabbar and Butheinah Jandaneh of the BPWC.

Organised by BPWC and UNICEF and attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the two-day conference aimed at public awareness of congenital diseases and prevention methods through educational programmes offered by the BPWC throughout the Kingdom.

The conference, attended by representatives of various ministries and private and public institutes, discussed five papers including cancer and heredity, early diagnosis of congenital disease before birth, religious opinion regarding congenital disease and abortion, the handicapped and criminal behaviour, and the role of the diagnosis centre at the Ministry of Health of preventing handicapped.

40,000 more trees to take root in Al Hussein National Park

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality today will launch the second and third phases of Al Hussein National Park east of Amman by planting 40,000 trees during celebrations marking Arbor Day.

A municipality announcement said that 23,000 trees will be planted on 350 dunums in the Khallatah area along the ring road east of Amman, and 17,000 trees on 242 dunums in the Raqim district, also east of Amman.

The two projects mark the second and third stages in the greening of areas east of the capital after phase I was executed in January last year.

The first phase was launched by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath during an Arbor Day ceremony in which 120,000 trees were planted on 1,348 dunums.

The municipality said the projects east of Amman were part of a drive to fight off desertification and green the country.

The statement said that the municipality has enclosed the first phase of the project with a 6,000-metre-long barbed wire fence and uses drip irrigation to water the trees from a local artesian well which feeds eight large water towers.

Meanwhile, Ajloun governorate announced Tuesday that it will hold its own Arbor Day celebration Wednesday by planting 2,500 seedlings on three dunums of land.

At Kura district, an Arbor Day celebration was held, and according to the director of the local agricultural department, 25,000 trees were distributed to citizens and organisations to be planted in the district.

Regional expert group to meet to prepare for Habitat II

AMMAN (J.T.) — In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which will be held in Istanbul in June 1996, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organising a regional expert group meeting next week, in cooperation with the Arab League and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

Held under the patronage of Minister of Public Works and Housing Dr. Abdel Razzaq Al Nsour, the expert group meeting will take place at Amman's Forte Grand Hotel between Jan. 23 and 26.

The meeting will serve as a forum for Arab experts to exchange information and views on the sustainable development of human settlements, and to discuss the general framework of the Arab Declaration for the Development of Human Settlements. It aims to finalise the draft Arab declaration and to make recommendations, which, following their adoption at the regional Arab level, will be used as an input to the global plan of action.

More specifically, the meeting seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Studying the current state of urbanisation, its future direction and its effect on human settlements.
- Examining the current state of adequate shelter in the Arab region, in terms of its availability and cost in rural and urban areas and on national and regional levels.
- Assessing and reviewing existing policies and programmes for the sustainable development of human settlements, and providing objective suggestions and recommendations on them.

Discussing the general framework of the Arab Declaration for Human Settlements prepared by ESCWA in order to finalise it in the form of a draft Arab declaration that would reflect the realities, priorities and basic approach of the sustainable development of human settlements in the Arab region.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held in Amman Tuesday in preparation for another U.N.-sponsored conference, the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Denmark in March this year.

The meeting of the National Jordanian Coordination Committee, was chaired by Minister of Social Development Salwa Damsani-Masri. It reviewed the Jordanian national working paper which will be submitted to the upcoming conference and which is seen as another sign of increasing concern around the world that the poor are being sidestepped and ignored, with no solution in sight for the mounting problems.

The summit is expected to come up with a plan of action to address social issues.

ARAB CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION

The exhibition contains paintings, sculptures, prints, watercolours, and ceramics by famous Arab artists.

Location: **Mona Saudi Studio**
Abdoun Village - Tel.: 829700

Exhibition runs from Thursday, Jan. 18 - until Saturday Jan. 27.
Daily from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Directions: Take road opposite gate of American Embassy. Road turns to right at end. Take 1st turn left, 2nd house on right between pine trees.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Film entitled "Live and Let Die" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Novel recital by Dr. Saleh Abu Usba' at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Spanish artist Covadonga Sarragusa at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.

Save water... Every drop counts!

Supporters want Aristide forever

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Creole graffiti on the walls and billboards read "Aristide for life." Slogans such as "Aristide for 1,000 years" grace the decayed downtown district.

The nine-member Electoral Council, which is to administer two elections this year, was recently stacked with supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The traditionally anti-Aristide army has been humiliated and reduced to a fourth of its size in favour of a police force that Mr. Aristide's government will oversee.

Some see these developments as pointing to the popular priest staying beyond his term. Others say staying last October when coup leaders on Mr. Aristide's side were beyond his five-year term, which ends in February 1996. Under the constitution, he cannot run again for five years.

He has said the measure of democracy in Haiti was not his election, but the transfer of power to a freely elected successor when his term expires.

"Surely things will improve if Haiti gets through the year with successful elections for a new parliament and Mr. Aristide's successor. It will give the country confidence," said Colin Granderson, chief of the U.N. civilian mission in Haiti. "Political stability will create a favourable investment climate, and jobs will follow."

However, a nascent grass-roots movement has been floating the idea of extending his term, an idea that Mr. Aristide once supported before submitting to American pressure to step aside.

A pro-Aristide newspaper,

Haiti En Marche, recently editorialised that term limits hurt the chances of stability and that the 1987 constitution was the product of the United States and the Haitian military dictatorship.

"The worm was in the fruit from the beginning," the paper concludes. "We will hang onto him until corn turns to millet," said Jean-Patrick St. George, 26, president of the Marist Youth Association. "We voted according to the constitution, and the grass-roots groups say Aristide must have his full five years."

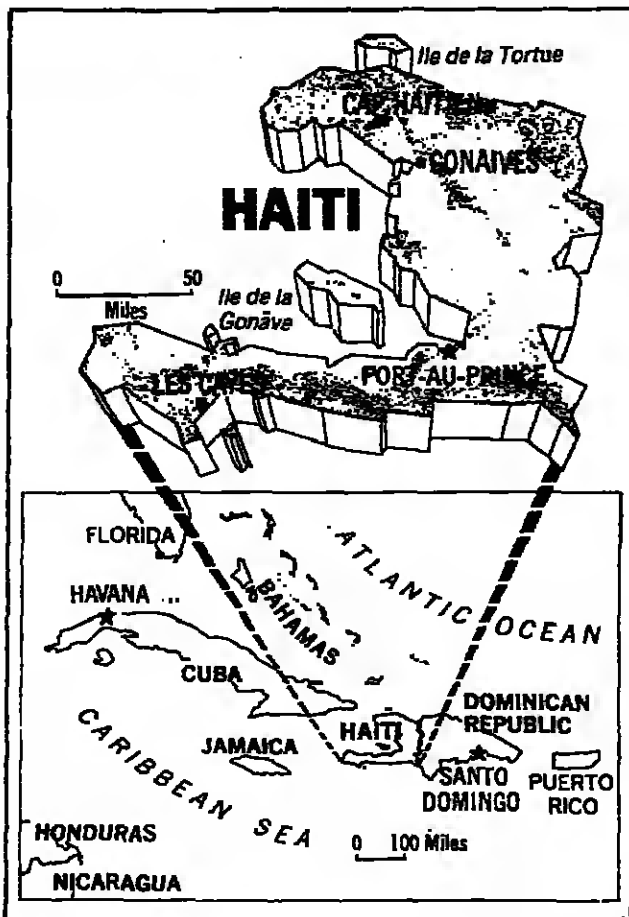
Haitians in 1990 democratically elected Mr. Aristide. Seven months after taking office, the army threw him out. He returned from exile last October when coup leaders left under threat of an American invasion.

Mr. Aristide, who pledged to respect differing views and conduct himself as a true democrat in his second chance at governance, took heat when he went outside the legal process to lead the Electoral Council.

One opposition leader, Leslie Manigat, noted that the council was to guard the electoral process. "But who will guard the guardians?" Mr. Manigat asked in a New Year's Day address.

Repeated delays in presenting an electoral law, resulting in postponements of legislative elections, have caused greater concern among those who fear long-term Aristide dominance.

Mr. Aristide's supporters are expected to sweep the parliamentary elections, which may be held in May. A friendlier parliament could interpret the constitution to make up the three years as president Mr. Aristide lost in



exile.

Mr. Aristide is described by some as lacking vision to the long-term development needs of his country, focusing instead on short-term humanitarian needs to the poorest nation in the Americas.

"While humanitarian aid is important, it is cosmetic," said Raymond Lafontant, director of the Haitian Association of Industries, which was generally sympathetic to Mr. Aristide during his exile. "It doesn't create production and it doesn't create jobs."

"That Aristide is keeping power in his hands doesn't matter," Mr. Lafontant continued. "The president is popular in his country and there is no other such force in Haiti up to now. But if he

stays on, he will find me fighting him."

Meanwhile, Canada will send some 500 troops to Haiti to help rebuild airports and other parts of the Haitian infrastructure, officials said Monday.

The Canadian army and air force will send engineers and technical personnel, according to John Williston, a spokesman for Defence Minister David Collette.

The troops will not be sent until Haitian authorities confirm that the situation is stable, said Mr. Williston. Canada has sent 13 Royal Canadian Mounted Police to maintain order and 25 others to train Haitian police. An additional 65 will be sent in early March.

U.S. AID chief hits back at critics

WASHINGTON (R) — The head of the U.S. foreign aid agency hit back Tuesday at conservatives in Congress who want to abolish it, saying that if they did so the government would only have to re-create it later.

Agency for International Development (AID) administrator Brian Atwood said such a move would damage U.S. leadership. He accused the critics of advocating amoral conduct abroad while preaching traditional moral values at home.

Mr. Atwood's comments in a speech prepared for delivery to an international development conference came as AID faces an uncertain future, with some Republicans calling for its blood.

Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell has introduced a bill to cut foreign spending and scrap AID, while the administration itself is considering proposals to incorporate AID and two other independent agencies into the State Department.

Mr. Atwood said the United States was at a "crucial juncture," with world population growth likely to increase the challenge over the next 30 years and disease, food shortages and poverty causing more migration and

instability.

"Now more than ever we need a strong institution capable of addressing these threats," he said. "If some on the bill (in Congress) have their way and we lose that capability now, make no mistake, we will have to reinvent it later."

"My worry is that the debate we are having over the fate of our agency could damage our leadership potential as much as the budget reductions we have already suffered," Mr. Atwood said.

"The problem is not the informed critics who honestly believe there is a better way to achieve our goals. The problem is created by those who want to win the day by tearing down our institution."

Mr. Atwood mentioned no names but twice referred to a remark by arch-conservative Senator Jesse Helms about "throwing money down foreign rat holes" as an example of "demagoguery." Sen. Helms, a North Carolina Republican, is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Those who think that we can lay down the burden of leadership should understand that our retreat will resonate throughout the international

community, and to the detriment of the values we hold dear," Mr. Atwood said.

"It is remarkable that some who advocate a return to traditional standards in America can simultaneously argue for moral indifference in international conduct."

U.S. overseas aid in 1993 totalled about \$9 billion. In absolute terms this was second only to Japan, but as a percentage of gross national product it was the lowest among major Western nations, AID officials say.

Mr. Atwood said most Americans believed about 20 per cent of their tax dollars went on foreign aid, whereas the real figure was less than one half of one per cent. Despite this, more Americans supported foreign aid than opposed it, he said.

Mr. Atwood, who was appointed in 1993 to clean up AID after allegations of inefficiency and corruption, also contested recent charges by the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank that it was still squandering money.

He accused the group of making selective quotes from recent reports by AID's own inspector general, and said the failings identified by the inspector had been corrected.

California floods create a toxic mess

GUERNEVILLE, California (AP) — Racing waters and flooded homes swirled propane tanks, anti-freeze, pesticides, bleach and other poisonous materials into a toxic stew dumping into the ocean.

Toxic fumes overcame two workers Sunday as they helped clean up around the Russian River, which winds through the northern California wine country before emptying into Pacific waters.

The men, both members of the California Conservation Corps, were treated at a hospital for dizziness and nausea and returned to work after being released.

"There are some gnarly black oil slicks in there," said Henry Bell, another member of the Conservation Corps. "It smells like rotten eggs."

Workers donned protective clothing and gas masks to remove poisons such as anti-freeze, pesticides, bleach and other materials.

Cleanup crews also found propane tanks, paint cans and chemicals within a mile of washing into the Pacific. Some containers broke open, creating health hazards, said Tom Daly, fire protection district engineer in Guerneville, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) north of San Francisco.

"As things get uncovered, then we're going to find more and more different hazards," Mr. Daly said. "Any type of toxic material, being motor oil, gasoline, fuels, cleaning substances, all those things are considered hazards if they start to mix together."

The cleanup will take weeks, he said. Creating additional problems, the main flooding area is just 15 miles (25 kilometres) from the mouth of the Russian River, where the salmon are running. That could pose a danger to the fish and people using nearby beaches, said Marty Isom of the Sonoma County Department of Health.

The mess was left by storms that have battered California for almost two weeks. Floods and mudslides have killed at least 11 people and caused an estimated \$300 million in damage.

At the Safeway Supermarket that reopened Saturday in Guerneville, people lined up with food vouchers, hoping to get groceries. Red Cross volunteers handed out cleanup packages with mops, sponges and disinfectants.

Connie Hedrick, owner of Guerneville Liquors, and several friends were disinfecting shelves and walls, hoping to stop "the mold crawling up the walls."

"There are so many people and so many businesses that will go under financially," Mrs. Hedrick said. "It's a disaster. But everybody's helping everybody and keeping their spirits up. I'm going to cry."

Across the state, more than 10,250 families whose homes were damaged had applied for federal aid by Sunday afternoon, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said.

In San Francisco, an early morning shower made Sunday the 16th straight day of rain, breaking a 60-year record for consecutive rain days.

President Bill Clinton found himself offering U.S. aid to Japan after Monday's major earthquake as he prepared Tuesday to survey the recovery from last year's devastating California quake.

The president was also to inspect damage from this year's storm-driven floods. The United States said Monday U.S. embassy officials in Japan were checking on the whereabouts of as many as 20,000 Americans.

Clinton marks Martin Luther King holiday

DENVER, Colorado (APF) — President Bill Clinton and other Americans honoured Martin Luther King Monday amid a dispute between the King family and authorities over how to preserve the slain U.S. civil rights leader's legacy.

"What he lived and died for was for everyone of you to have the right to do good and be good and make the most of your life," Mr. Clinton said in an address at a commemorative ceremony for Rev. King held here.

Mr. Clinton linked the famed dream speech of Rev. King, who would have been 66 years old Monday, to his own efforts to improve the lives of average Americans and bring the American dream within their reach.

Mr. Clinton said when he took office in 1992, Washington did not have the key to reclaim that dream for which

Martin Luther King gave his life," referring to the civil rights leader's "I have a dream" speech.

But the president added that his two years in office had "restored a sense of economic direction and opportunity."

The president's trip, which includes a visit to flood-damaged California, is aimed at promoting his Middle Class Bill of Rights package of tax breaks for families with children and students.

Meanwhile, Rev. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and their children placed a wreath on Rev. King's crypt in Atlanta, Georgia, early Monday, then attended a packed Ebenezer Baptist Church where both Rev. King and his father had preached.

Former Atlanta Mayor and King aide Andrew Young, wept as he reminded the

crowd that Rev. King's dream of a country united in racial harmony has not yet been achieved.

"Martin knew that this wasn't a one-generational struggle," he said. "He knew he would not make it to the end, so it was very important that he have a family that could carry on."

The pastor, Reverend Joseph Roberts, reminded the congregation of Rev. King's patience in his peaceful pursuit of racial harmony.

"As we see what is going on in Haiti and in South Africa, we know he rejoices with us," he said.

The dispute between the family and the National Park Service centres on control of an Atlanta, Georgia neighbourhood where Rev. King was born on Jan. 5, 1929 that has been designated a national historic site.

Danish prince's trip with model sparks speculation

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's heir to the throne Prince Frederik returned from a tropical island holiday with a lingerie model amid speculation about his marital future. In a TV interview, Prince Frederik did not mention his girlfriend but listed qualities Denmark's next queen should possess. "She must be at ease with herself and something of an individualist. She will have to be an independent woman, not a doll. It's no easy job," the prince said. Prince Frederik's girlfriend, Danish model Katja Storch, accompanied him to the island of Mauritius this month fuelling speculation she might become Denmark's next queen.

Crane used to winch 500-pound ailing woman

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) — Firefighters had to use a crane to lift a 230-kilogramme (506-pound) woman out of a third-floor window and take her to hospital, Fire Department officials said. The woman, who was not identified, had made an emergency call to her doctor Sunday evening but the latter was unable to carry her to a waiting ambulance even with the help of several men. The physician then called the fire department which sent a crane to help transport the ailing woman to hospital.

Boys find loot of 20-year-old robbery

LONDON (AFP) — Three boys playing on the bank of a canal in northwestern England came across the loot of a burglary committed some 20 years ago and worth £50,000 (\$75,000), police said Tuesday. Damian Eccles, 11, his brother Daniel, 13, and David Jones, 16, were digging a foxhole beside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at Halsall, when they came across a metal box. "We opened it up and when we saw all the silver and jewels inside we thought we were rich. We went to a house nearby and phoned the police from there," Daniel Eccles said. Police established that the collection of jewellery, old coins and rare stamps had been stolen in a burglary at nearby Southport 20 years before. Also found was a passport of a man who was not identified. "It would appear that the burglars buried the jewels and intended to return to recover them but for some reason they have not done so," a Lancashire Police spokesman said.

Thieves ham it up in France

DIJON, France (AFP) — Thieves stole 840 kilos (1,850 pounds) of ham from a warehouse over the weekend, police said. They broke into the refrigerated facility overnight and made off with 660 boxes of jellied ham with parsley, a specialty from the Dijon region of eastern France, the police said.

Marcos son interviewed, killed by Aquino's daughter

MANTLA (AP) — The son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos laughed, talked and exchanged kisses on five TV Monday with a daughter of the opposition leader Marcos is suspected of having killed. Kris Aquino, a daughter of slain politician Benigno Aquino and host of a talk show on the government-controlled RPN-9 station, interviewed Congressman Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., 36. Her mother, former President Corason Aquino, has accused the elder Marcos of murdering her husband's killing. The next generation was more conciliatory. "In fairness, everytime I see Bongbong, he is so intelligent and he is so articulate, he does not look like he could kill another person," the 23-year-old Ms. Aquino said. In 1983, Ms. Aquino's father was assassinated by a soldier as he returned from exile in the United States. Three years later, an uprising drove the Marcoses into exile in Hawaii and installed Corason Aquino as president. Mr. Marcos died in Honolulu three years later.

Greek MPs shelve Mitsotakis' indictments

ATHENS (AP) — The Socialist-dominated parliament voted Monday to suspend the indictments of conservative former Premier Constantine Mitsotakis and two of his former ministers whom it accused of corruption.

Last year, the Socialist government pushed indictments through parliament accusing Mr. Mitsotakis of taking a bribe in a cement company's sale and of authorising wiretaps during his 1990-1993 government.

It also charged former Finance Minister Yannis Paleokrassas and former Industry Minister Andreas Andrianopoulos with alleged illegalities in the privatisation of the Aget-Heracles cement concern in 1992. All three have denied the charges.

In a secret ballot after a daylong debate, deputies voted 154-102 in favour of suspending Mr. Mitsotakis' indictment on the wiretapping charge. They voted 155-98 to suspend legal action against the former premier and his two ministers in connection with the cement company's sale.

There are 300 seats in the single-chamber parliament. But of the 274 deputies present, 18 abstained in the first vote and 21 in the second. The ruling Socialist Party (PASOK) has 170 seats and the conservative New Democracy Party has 109. Two smaller parties walked out before the vote.

Mr. Mitsotakis, 76, opposed the proposal. He argued that he and his former ministers should be given the right to clear their names in court. He claimed that the Socialists would not have chosen to suspend the charges if they had any evidence that would have led to convictions.

"For a year the parliamentary majority has been slinging mud. You now come and ask for a suspension of the indictments. Why?" He asked during the debate.

Conservative deputies said that they would vote against the Socialist proposal. Premier Andreas Papanastasiou, 75, said in his speech that he wanted the country to put the past behind it for the sake of national unity.

Several members of his party bad said that they would not support his proposal. Some because they would have liked to see Mr. Mitsotakis in court while others objected to having had to indict the former premier at Mr. Papanastasiou's bidding in the first place.

Technically, the charges will not be dropped and a new parliament could decide to try Mr. Mitsotakis and the other two men before a special high court but this is considered unlikely.

Mr. Mitsotakis resigned from the leadership of the New Democracy Party after his government fell to the Socialists in 1993.

The Socialists pushed through parliament an indictment of Mr. Mitsotakis, 76, opposed the proposal. He argued that he and his former ministers should be given the right to clear their names in court. He claimed that the Socialists would not have chosen to suspend the charges if they had any evidence that would have led to convictions.

Singapore fines newspaper for contempt

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore court imposed heavy fines on an American professor and officials of the International Herald Tribune (IHT) newspaper Tuesday after finding them guilty of contempt in a published article.

High Court Judge Gob Joon Seng handed out Singapore's stiffest-ever combined fines in a contempt case involving the media, over an IHT article published on Oct. 7 which criticised unnamed Asian judiciaries.

"I find all five respondents guilty of contempt by way of scandalising the Singapore judiciary," he told the court.

Judge Goh said he had "no doubt" the offending passage "referred to, and was intended by (author) Christopher Lingle to refer to Singapore."

Mr. Lingle, a former professor at the National University of Singapore who quit his job and returned to the United States last October, did not return to face charges and was fined Singapore dollars 10,000 (\$6,900).

Michael Richardson, the IHT's Asia editor who edited the article, was fined \$3,450. Richard McClean, its Paris-based publisher, was fined \$1,725. Local distributor, International Herald Tribune (Singapore), and printer Singapore Press Holdings were each fined \$1,035.

Simpson trial set to begin Thursday

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Accused murderer and football great O.J. Simpson faces this week the most highly publicised trial in U.S. history, pumped by high-powered attorneys pitching incendiary elements of racism and wife abuse.

O.J. Simpson, 47, who is black, is accused of slaying to death his ex-wife Nicole, 35, and her friend, Ron Goldman, 25, both of whom are white. This capped, prosecutors say, years of violent abuse of his wife.

Defence attorneys argued that marital turmoil is irrelevant and instead insisted that a racist detective framed Mr. Simpson by placing a key piece of evidence — a bloody glove matching one at the crime scene — on his lawn.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito will rule Tuesday or Wednesday whether to allow the 12-person jury made up of eight blacks, one Hispanic and two whites to hear the evidence of wife abuse.

Opening arguments in the trial begin Thursday, a few days after reports surfaced that two of his most prominent defence lawyers —

Robert Shapiro and F. Lee Bailey — are feuding and have quit speaking to each other.

Mr. Shapiro learned that Mr. Bailey had for weeks been leaking to the media items intended to diminish Mr. Shapiro's legal skills while enhancing his own, the New York Times reported Monday.

The feud between the out-sized legal egos has only added to the Hollywood frenzy surrounding this trial in which Mr. Simpson co-wrote a book in jail proclaiming his innocence while Judge Ito starred in a television interview.

And hundreds of reporters and photographers have converged on the courthouse for "the trial of the century" that has created a bonanza for the T-shirt and memorabilia entrepreneurs hawking their O.J. wares outside.

The media muscle brought to this trial promises to imprint on the national consciousness, at least temporarily, the issues of domestic violence and racism.

Race tensions surfaced as defence and prosecution attorneys, both black, sparred over the question of whether a key white police investigator, Mark Fuhrman, has a history of racial intolerance.

Simpson defence lawyer Johnnie Cochran presented statements made by Mr. Fuhrman, evidence from his psychologists and an affidavit from a woman who claimed she heard him make racist remarks.

Mr. Cochran introduced evidence that showed Mr. Fuhrman 14 years ago used the word "nigger," and portrayed Mr. Fuhrman as a man capable of planting evidence because of his alleged racial bias.

Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden urged Judge Ito to block the word. "It'll issue a test, and the test will be: 'Whose side are you on, the side of the white prosecutors and the white policemen, or are you on the side of the black defendant and his very prominent and capable black lawyer?' Mr. Darden said.

Judge Ito bristled at the prospect, saying "For those of us who grew up in the '60s and had hoped this would kind of go away, it's a big disappointment to still have to read this stuff."

Experts grappled to find a link between Tuesday's killer and other bouts of seismic activity that have shaken Japan in recent months.

They attributed much of the damage to the relative lack of preparedness among people in the Osaka area which — unlike Tokyo and the surrounding region — is not renowned as a major centre of seismic activity.

Megumi Mizoue, a professor at the Tokyo University, said the western Japanese plate, where Tuesday quake's occurred, was separate from the northern plate.

"It's just a coincidence that the quakes occurred one after another," he said.

Said Jiro Suzuki, a seismology professor at Tohoku University: "The latest quake was traced to a different cause from earlier tremors, though there may be an indirect link among them."

Tuesday's earthquake left more than 1,200 dead or missing, and thousands injured, in Osaka, Kobe and other parts of western Japan.

The damage was far greater than the Dec. 28 quake in the northern city of Hachinohe which claimed only two lives despite its higher magnitude of 7.5.

Japanese seismologists believe the latest quake was triggered by a horizontal movement of a fault in the region, while the recent quakes in northern Japan resulted from two plates smashing into each other.

Toshi Asada, professor of seismology at Tokai University, told Kyodo News Service that the quake was an "inland type" tremor in which the tectonic plate underneath Japan slipped

into a geological fault beneath the archipelago.

Experts also said that the quake had a stronger impact than others with similar magnitudes as its epicentre was shallow — only 20 kilometres below Awaji Island, about 100 kilometres southwest of Osaka.

"It was not the biggest quake, but it was the first to hit a major city since World War II," said Sumitomo Murakami, a professor at the Yokohama National University.

Prof. Murakami also noted that in western Japan, people "also took no precautions against fires resulting from earthquakes. No major fire damage has ever occurred in the past."

"People thought that expressways in Japan were safe and what happened in Los Angeles last year would never happen here. But they were proved wrong, as the roads were built a long time ago," he said.

The latest quake devastated the port town of Kobe, with a population of 1.5 million.

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ANKFURT — Firefighters
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woman, who was un
identified, had been
rescued after being
trapped in a burning
apartment. The fire
department said the
woman was found
in a room with a
balcony. She was
in good health and
was taken to a
hospital for observation.

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ENHAGEN (R) — The
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Chechen volunteers march along a boulevard in Grozny heading for the frontline as Russian troops moved in to the city (AFP photo)

Outside volunteers swell ranks of Chechen fighters

GROZNY, Russia (R) — An artillery barrage forces Chechen fighters moving on foot through the rubble of Grozny to lay up for a breather in the lee of a shattered building.

Among them is a huge man with Asian features and a Kalashnikov. Igor describes himself as a volunteer — some would call him a mercenary — from the Russian Federation's Buryat Republic on the Mongolian border.

He is one of hundreds who have slipped into Grozny from other Russian republics to help defend the Chechen capital.

These adventures are leaving bands of Chechen irregular troops who are battling Russian tanks and troops to a standstill in the ruins of the city.

"I was a businessman in the Buryat Republic with many friends in Chechnya and I came to fight as a matter of justice," Igor told reporters in English.

"This is a fight against the

America dollars and Japanese yen are falling on Grozny as bombs and shells. Boris Yeltsin is using the world's financial credits to exterminate Chechnya," he declared.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent the army into Chechnya on Dec. 11 to crush the breakaway republic's three-year bid for independence.

Volunteers like Igor from other republics in the loose, post-Soviet Russian Federation are still too few in number to make a difference in the final outcome of the battle for Grozny.

But they have improved the effectiveness of individual units and boosted Chechen morale.

"These guys are real men and good fighters, believe me," said Yahya Dashedev, 37, a former high school teacher who turned street fighter over the past five weeks.

"We have some Kazakhs in our unit and they are giving the Russian soldiers a very hard time. The Kazakhs

know what we are fighting for, they know our history and the way the Russians have treated us. They're freedom fighters."

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin branded the Chechens as Nazi collaborators during World War II and shipped the entire nation to Kazakhstan as punishment in 1944.

Most of the deportees returned to their homes 20 years later only to find Chechnya dominated by ethnic Russians who had moved in their absence.

The neighbouring republics of Ingushetia and Dagestan, whose Muslim peoples are ethnically close to the Chechens, are contributing most of the outside volunteers to the Chechen rebellion, including some women who serve as snipers.

But fighters have come from all across the former Soviet Union.

Fyodor Yushuk, 25, packed up his Soviet PK machinegun and headed to Grozny from Siberia, where he worked as a trader.

A swashbuckling, fair-

haired ethnic Russian with a wild grin, knee-high black leather boots and bandoliers of ammunition draped around his body, Fyodor has been fighting in the capital for two weeks.

"Like most people I had served two years in the army but never seen any fighting. Fyodor said of his prior military experience.

"I came to Grozny because I think what Russia is doing in Chechnya is wrong. It's a question of fairness. The Chechens deserve their freedom."

Smoking a cigarette, right foot propped on the stoop of an apartment block, bright blue stocking cap, bright blue camouflage fatigues, Fyodor affirms the nonchalance of a veteran as shells land in the neighbourhood around him.

Asked what would happen if he were captured by the Russian army, he laughs.

"They won't catch me. I will go to the mountains and this will turn into a partisan war and we will be fighting a very long time."

and officials said no sales of alcohol would be permitted.

Luxury hotels would not be allowed to have bars, but they can sell liquor to Indian and foreign tourists in special "permit rooms," an Andhra Pradesh official said in Hyderabad, the state capital.

"Those who have been advised liquor by doctors will have to produce certificates signed by government surgeons to buy and drink liquor," the official added.

In line with a pledge made during his election campaign, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao announced prohibition after assuming office on Dec. 12.

Mr. Rama Rao's regional Telugu Desam Party stormed to power in Andhra Pradesh in the December elections, crushing Premier Rao's Congress (I) Party.

Several women's organisations, centred mainly in villages, had long sought a ban on liquor, saying men from poor families were spending most of their wages on drinking and gambling, adding to their misery.

Officials said Andhra Pradesh would suffer an annual revenue loss of some \$400 million due to prohibition.

Angry liquor traders Monday petitioned the Andhra Pradesh High Court in a last-ditch bid to prevent the government from announcing prohibition, but their plea for judicial intervention was turned down.

All liquor shops in Andhra Pradesh, India's third most populous state, were shuttered at midnight Monday.

through mud and was welcomed as saviour from drought because his mass coincided with the first rain in the capital in nearly a year.

The ceremony in the small outdoor stadium beatified Peter To Rot, a religion teacher killed by Japanese occupying forces during World War II for refusing to give up his faith.

"Some people are saying this rain is Peter To Rot's miracle," a resident of Port Moresby said.

Tribal people in this South Pacific country, where magic and sorcery are still practised, saw the rain as a Papal gift.

"I'm going to be able to tell people that my God brought this rain as a gift," joked an Irish missionary.

Tribes in the mountainous interior saw their first white man in the 1930s when explorers arrived. Spirit worship and magic rites are widespread and sometimes mix with Christianity.

The Pope is on the second leg of a four-nation Asia-Pacific tour, his first major overseas trip since he underwent bone-replacement surgery on his leg last April.

Pope John Paul seemed occasionally uneasy standing in the open truck, which swayed as it was driven through mud to a canopy altar platform where he celebrated mass.

He was at times visibly uncomfortable standing in the unsteady vehicle, apparently fearing he would lose his balance.

Although Vatican officials say his overall health is good, the Pope has great difficulty walking, even with his cane.

Thousands of people, many in traditional dress of grass skirts, penis sheaths and dog-teeth necklaces, stood in monsoon rain for a glimpse of the Pope.

Bare-breasted women, their faces smeared with yellow makeup made from pig grease, danced for the Pope.

Jordan's Chechens want to fight

AMMAN (AFP) — Angered by what they see as Western complacency towards Moscow, young men of Jordan's large Chechen community are itching to defend their homeland against Russian attack.

"If there is a way I am ready to die in defending Grozny, and that goes for all of us," said student Yazan Shishani, 18.

"That's what we all want," added cabinet-maker Mohammad Shamseddin Ashab, 35. "What's happening in Chechnya touches the heart of all members of our community."

The leaders of the Association of Friends of Chechnya, which claims to represent 15,000 people of Chechen origin and to have the support of 150,000 others with their roots in the Caucasus, deny separatist republic.

"Our activity consists in

making public opinion aware of the Chechen drama and organising the collection of humanitarian aid," said one of the association's militants, Adnan Yunes Madhah, 37, a researcher in Caucasian history.

He and his colleagues said they knew nothing of volunteers leaving Jordan for Grozny, as alleged by Moscow, and confirmed by a senior Jordanian official, who denied however that Amman was giving them any assistance.

Reports in Moscow Sunday said Russia had appealed to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia to prevent "mercenaries" and others from those countries going to fight in Chechnya.

"Some enthusiasts for the Chechen cause have gone to Grozny on an individual basis to help the Chechen fighters, but we have no idea of their

number," the Jordanian official told AFP earlier this month.

He stressed that "no Jordanian association or institution is involved in the dispatch of combatants to Chechnya."

Officially, Jordan has appealed for fighting to end in Chechnya but said it considers the war in the Muslim-populated breakaway republic to be an internal Russian matter.

Chechens in Jordan do not openly criticise this attitude, but express stupefaction at the relative international silence on Chechnya.

"How can one deny a people its most basic right, of self-determination," demanded Mohammad Ashab, adding, "I defy anyone to find a single Chechen opposed to independence."

The Chechens who settled in Jordan maintain close links with their homeland, speak-

ing the language at home and recounting the stories of Chechen resistance to Russian tsarist and Communist rule.

"My grandmother was deported with her family to Siberia during Stalin's rule, and she often tells us stories of that time," said Mohammad Ashab.

"We tell our children the sagas of Chechen heroes like Haji Murad," who fought Russian imperial troops in the mid-19th century, said Adnan Madhah.

Meanwhile the association is continuing to collect humanitarian aid, stocking chests of medical supplies in its headquarters while awaiting for it to be dispatched.

"We have got together enough to fill a cargo plane, but administrative complications are delaying it being sent off via the Red Cross and Red Crescent," an association official said.

Rwandan refugees to be moved away from borders

KIGALI (R) — Camps in Tanzania and Zaire for up to 1.5 million Rwandan refugees are to be moved more than 50 kilometres from Rwanda's borders, a U.N. envoy said Tuesday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) special envoy Carroll Faubert did not estimate when the Rwandans would be moved but aid workers said they expected it later this year.

"What is left of the refugee population will be transferred further from the frontier," Mr. Faubert said in the Rwandan capital.

"The idea is not to close the camps but to relocate them and offer the refugees the options of a return to their homes or continued exile in a different site," he told reporters.

The refugees, virtually all members of the Hutu majority, languish in camps as close as 10 kilometres to the borders of Rwanda which they fled from last April to July to escape a rebel advance.

On Tanzanian plains and volcanic rock Zairean hillsides, the refugees live on international aid, too scared to return because of fears they will be killed in revenge for the massacre of up to a million members of Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

The cost of relief is enormous — aid agencies spend over \$1 million a day to support the sprawling camps around the eastern Zairean town of Goma — and few in the aid community believe the operation is sustainable.

Aid workers said moving the camps is aimed at finding better locations and to increase security in border areas of Rwanda by making it more difficult for militias based among the refugees to launch cross-border raids.

Agencies also hope the greater distance will encourage more refugees to return home rather than live on handouts in camps.

UNHCR will ask authorities in Zaire and Tanzania to identify sites for new camps up to 200 kilometres from the border.

Tanzanian authorities have said Rwandans could be sent to camps vacated by Mozambican refugees in the south 1,500 kilometres from the present sites in the northwest of the country.

Mr. Faubert said he hoped more refugees would decide to return to their homes as Rwanda recovered from the massacres and war.

UNHCR says more than 3,000 left the Goma camps for Rwanda last week, a large increase on the number of weekly returnees late last year.

But most refugees remain cowed by threats from bands of Rwandan militiamen ruling the camps and by reports of reprisal killings by members of the Rwanda Patriotic Army inside Rwanda.

Mr. Faubert said the tiny Central African country needed more financial aid from the international community to resurrect the legal system and help create a climate of security to encourage refugees home.

A high-level Rwandan delegation is in Geneva for a conference Wednesday and Thursday on their country's needs.

The Rwandan government, which was formed after the defeat of its Hutu predecessor in July, will ask donors for \$764 million including \$273 million for reintegration of refugees.

U.N. tries to hold Bosnia ceasefire

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb forces drove tanks into a Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia and government troops maintained a grip on two northwestern villages, triggering fears of Serb counter-attack, U.N. spokesmen disclosed Tuesday, revealing further threats to a tottering truce.

Here in Sarajevo meanwhile U.N. authorities sought to settle disputes between Serb and government officials that are blocking humanitarian gains from the New Year cessation of hostilities.

After moving 1,500 metres into the eastern Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, rebel Serb forces overnight positioned several tanks and armoured personnel carriers in the sector, U.N. spokesman Paul Risley said.

"The presence of heavy weapons can be considered a threat to the (U.N.-designated) safe area of Srebrenica and to the civilians of that safe area," he added.

At the same time mainly Muslim Bosnian army units continued to occupy the towns of Vedro Polje and Klokot in northwestern Bosnia, which they seized in an offensive Saturday.

"We are concerned that the Bosnian Serb army may

attempt a counter-offensive, as they have threatened to do," Mr. Risley added.

Serb retaliatory shelling into Bihac town, from where the Muslim offensive was launched, killed seven people over the weekend and prompted strong protest letters to both sides from U.N. Bosnia commander General Michael Rose.

The Serb and Bosnian army territorial advances are seen by the United Nations as clear and worrisome breaches of the truce, which called notably for a separation of forces on the ground.

The agreement also called for a withdrawal of foreign forces from Bosnia. But that stipulation has likewise remained a dead letter as Serb units around Bihac are being supported by heavy weapons and artillery pieces manned by Serbs from neighbouring Croatia, according to U.N. military sources.

In addition to the increasingly volatile situation outside Sarajevo, the United Nations have been dogged by both army's failure to evacuate a contested demilitarised zone and a dispute blocking the reopening of a key supply route.

"We're not satisfied with the pace at which the proposed issues in the cessation of hostilities agreement are

being resolved," Mr. Risley acknowledged. "We'd like to see a quicker pace."

U.N. officers planned Tuesday to mount yet another helicopter reconnaissance of the DMZ on Mt. Igman south of where, they hope to confirm the departure of all Bosnian army troops.

U.N. officials were irked to discover Sunday and Monday that government soldiers were still occupying parts of the DMZ in defiance of the ceasefire.

The army had initially pledged to quit the area by Jan. 4 but has continued to maintain units in the sector past the deadline, damaging relations with the Serb military and blocking implementation of other truce provisions — notably the reopening of critical airport crossings.

Also Tuesday, according to spokesman Major Koos Sol, U.N. civil affairs chief Viktor Andrejev will try to bring Serb and government delegates together in a face-to-face encounter to resolve another dispute preventing the restoration of free passage out of this besieged capital.

Separate U.N. contacts with the parties Monday produced no accord.

Balladur may declare candidacy today

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur is set to declare, possibly as early as Wednesday, that he will stand for the French presidency, firing the starting gun on what is widely seen as a one-horse race.

His declaration, a foregone conclusion, comes amid disarray and discord on the French left and a flagging campaign by his main right-wing rival, Gaullist supremo Jacques Chirac.

With recent opinion polls giving him a 20 per cent lead over his nearest rival, and as minister after minister lines up behind him, Mr. Balladur's victory seems almost inevitable.

Mr. Balladur has for months retailed a self-imposed silence about his ambitions to run for the April-May elections to replace Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who has been in power for 14 years.

He has said he will declare his intentions when the current parliamentary session is over: It is scheduled to end Wednesday, but could be extended unexpectedly, although not for more than one day.

Mr. Balladur is the clear front-runner. But analysts point out that by declaring he will immediately lose a key

element of his campaign strategy: Until now he has gained kudos by appearing to remain above the electoral fray.

They predict he will probably try to keep the tone of campaigning as low-key as possible, in a bid not to be drawn into political sniping, in particular with his former political allies.

Mr. Balladur is a member of the Rally For the Republic (RPR) party, which Mr. Chirac led before declaring for the presidential ballots in November.

The French premier's declaration is seen by some critics as a betrayal of Mr. Chirac, who sponsored him for the premiership after the right's landslide election victory in March 1993.

The campaign is expected to be dominated by the social issues, in particular France's massive unemployment and homeless problems. Mr. Chirac has already gone on the offensive, condemning Mr. Balladur's "inertia."

The Paris mayor has recently spearheaded a campaign to requisition empty buildings owned by large corporations in the French capital to turn them over to the homeless.

Critics have denounced it as straight electioneering, but

it is indicative of the mood both candidates will have to win votes from the political centre-ground on social issues.

Mr. Balladur, although not officially campaigning, has counter-attacked with staunch defences of his government's record, particularly with regard to a fledgling economic recovery.

He has claimed the election of a rightist president, ending the two years of "cohabitation" with the Socialist Mitterrand, will make "everything possible" after the May second round vote.

Mr. Balladur's cause received a significant boost last week when hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a former Chirac ally, declared he will be supporting the premier to the ballots.

The presidential election is seen largely as a contest on the right, with the left struggling to find a credible candidate after its main potential nominee, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors, announced in December that he would not run.

Mr. Balladur may not yet have said much about his political ambitions, but he is certainly prepared for the fight.

Ranariddh calls Vietnam visit a success

HANOI (AFP) — Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh eoded a fence-mending visit to Vietnam Tuesday, hailing the three-day trip as a great success after reassuring Hanoi about a thorny immigration problem.

Prince Ranariddh said he had allayed Hanoi's fears that a contentious Cambodian immigration law — which has severely strained relations between the two neighbours in recent months — was not solely aimed at Vietnamese residents and promised there would be no mass expulsions of foreigners.

"I think the prime minister of Vietnam understands our stance very well," the prince said, referring to a law approved by the Cambodian National Assembly last year which Vietnam had warned could "threaten traditional friendly relations."

Human rights groups have

warned that the law, which has not yet come into force, could discriminate against ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia.

However, he declined to say whether he and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet had reached a formal agreement on immigration during three hours of intensive talks Monday.

"The visit and talks have been a success, if not a great success," he told AFP during a visit to a Hanoi trade fair earlier Tuesday.

"I explained to our Vietnamese counterpart about our immigration law which was adopted not only for Vietnamese nationals resident in Cambodia, but for all foreigners," he said.

"The law will be in conformity with international practice and there will not be mass expulsions of Vietnamese or anybody else."

"We have a group of ex-

perts from Vietnam and Cambodia in order to study the implementation in a very fair and legal manner of the immigration law."

The Cambodian co-premier said however that the issue of an estimated 5,000 ethnic Vietnamese — who had fled Khmer Rouge reprisals against them and have been refused reentry to Cambodia — had still to be resolved by the governments and international humanitarian organisations.

He added, "I don't think it's a big problem."

Ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia are estimated at between 100,000 and 300,000.

The Cambodian premier said Vietnam had also agreed to cut red tape on the transit of goods to Cambodia through Vietnamese rivers by transferring some powers from Hanoi to local authorities.

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Time to use time

GIVEN THE fact that the next Israeli general elections are less than two years away, the clock appears to be ticking away fast against the attainment of a complete and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. To begin with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's political fortunes do not look too good for the moment. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity seems to be on the rise and so are the prospects for the Likud to win the next elections scheduled for 1996. There is a growing consensus on both sides of the Israeli political landscape that the waves of violence and tension that seem to increase in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and on the Lebanese-Israeli border are doing more damage to the peace process. With every attack and counter-attack between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, the Israeli political pulse seems to harden rather than soften against any meaningful compromise that could set the Israeli-PLO peace negotiations on track again. The posture of Palestinian extremists is unwittingly aiding and abetting the political fortunes of the Israeli extremists, something that bodes well for the Likud but not for the ruling Labour government.

Israeli growing violence against the Palestinians as evidenced by the recent killings of Palestinians is also hardening sentiments on the Palestinian side against making compromises in order to move forward the peace talks between them. The recent disclosures made by the memoirs of PLO negotiator Mahmoud Abbas that Rabin's forces were in cahoots with the PLO, prior to the holding of the 1992 general elections in Israel, on negotiating strategies, would not help much the declining political ratings of the Labour Party. Still Abbas' tell-all book stands to hurt the Likud as well since the revelations contained in it would corroborate the fast accumulating evidence that the Likud Party was also engaged in secret talks with the PLO prior to the 1992 elections.

Thus the overall picture for peace between Israel and the remaining Arab parties that is yet to culminate in treaties looks grim for the moment in view of the limited period still available before the next Israeli elections. Translated into real terms, the Rabin government has only till November of 1995 to make peace deals with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. After that date, the Labour Party may lose its ability to manoeuvre since it can no longer make so-called unpopular moves especially when the cycle of violence seems to get a stronger grip on events in the occupied Palestinian territories and southern Lebanon.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Tuesday called for a general campaign against smoking. Quoting statistical sources, Mohammad Subeichi said that JD 456 million worth of tobacco is consumed in Jordan every year by 1.25 million smokers. Add to this the cost of medical care for diseases resulting from smoking, estimated at JD 228 million and JD 50 million in lost business caused by smoking-related sickness and a similar sum spent on cigars and other tobacco and one will realise that a fortune, that could be spent on the poor and on financing development projects, is being wasted, said the writer. It is strange to see Jordan encouraging smoking through the presence of a special fund for supporting the tobacco industry and it is even strange to see most doctors smoking while their duty is to help protect public health, added the writer. Despite laws that ban smoking in public places, people are allowed to violate the regulations and get away with it and we see the government allowing imported cigarettes to be marketed in the Kingdom, said the writer, who suggested that one day a month should be designated as a no-smoking day to start the practice of ending the habit of smoking and save national wealth.

A WRITER in Sawt Al Shaab urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to mend its laws, which have been in force for the past 15 years with a view to improving pension paid to beneficiaries. Nazih Qousus said that in comparing pension paid to retired government employees, to pension paid to those benefiting from the SSC one can find that the pension of regular government employee, who had served for 20 years, is double that offered to a non-government employee who retired after working for the same period. The writer said that this is an injustice done to the SSC beneficiaries who pay monthly premiums to the SSC. The writer urged the SSC director-general to keep his promise, made in a recent statement on television, to examine the prospects for increasing the pension of SSC beneficiaries.

M. KAHIL



Susser's account of Wasfi Al Tel's life lacks deep reading of political dynamics

"On Both Banks of the Jordan: A Political Biography of Wasfi Al Tal," by Asher Susser, pp. 208, Frank Cass, first edition, 1994.

By Lu'ayy Al Rimawi

IN THIS biographical book, Asher Susser, an Israeli scholar at Tel Aviv University, seeks to delve deep into Jordanian politics to exhumate and demystify the events which surrounded one of its greatest political personalities. Due to Susser's nationality factor, his sources are merely drawn from interviews with contemporaries, general articles and Wasfi Al Tel's own writings, speeches and press conferences. Susser's task is further confounded by the inordinate secrecy which shrouded the decision-making process in that sensitive era and the lack of reliable insider information. Unfortunately, the self-appointed task of unearthing the political dust of Wasfi Al Tel eventually proves to be well beyond the limits of the author, as he leaves many intriguing questions virtually unanswered. (Though the book undoubtedly and commendably serves as a narrative reading of Wasfi Al Tel's life and also as an introductory reading on Jordan's political history during the sixties).

The book is divided into seven chapters, preceded by a general introduction, and a conclusion. In the first three chapters Susser examines Wasfi Al Tel's early years, the beginning of his political career and his service in the Jordanian government. In his discussion of Wasfi Al Tel's early life and his political career, Susser relies heavily on recent works of the Jordanian historian Sulayman Al Musa. Wasfi Al Tel's rise to political pre-eminence is rightly traced to the mid-fifties, when his public criticisms of Jamal Abdul Nasser and simultaneous support of the deeply loathed Baghdad Pact endeared him to the Jordanian establishment. His strong friendship with Premier Hazza' Al Majali paid its dividends and was also instrumental. Wasfi Al Tel served as a diplomat in Bonn and Tebran, Chief of Royal Protocol, director of the General Directorate for Guidance and Information (at a time when Jordan's relationship with the United Arab Republic was deteriorating), and Jordan's ambassador to Baghdad.

In the fourth chapter Susser discusses Wasfi Al Tel's accession to premiership, when in January 1962, a period of "relative tranquility," he formed his first cabinet replacing the outgoing Bahjat Al Talhouni (p. 36). His government of "young, dynamic and educated" people won in February 1962 the unanimous confidence of Parliament.

Quite rightly observed,

Wasfi Al Tel came to office with an earnest intention of bettering the existing political systems. Consequently, he embarked on a relentless campaign of purging the bureaucracy and in November 1962 free parliamentary elections were held. But, Wasfi Al Tel's popularity did not last for long. Friction between him and some aspirant PLO representatives (notably Ahmad Al Shukari, who was propped up by anti-Jordanian Arab forces) took its toll, especially in light of the virulent war of words between Al Tel and Abdul Nasser following the Jordanian-Saudi support for the royalists in Yemen. According to Susser, because of the two Baathist coups in Syria and Iraq in 1963 and Jordan's desire to improve its standing in a region littered with Arab nationalist regimes, Al Tel tendered his resignation in March 1963.

In the fifth chapter, Susser examines in lucid details Wasfi Al Tel's confrontations with the PLO and Abdul Nasser. In February 1965, Wasfi Al Tel was reinstated as a prime minister in an era which had been marked by reconciliation with Egypt. In Susser's view, the likely confrontation with the PLO was the "immediate" reason for Wasfi Al Tel's come-back (p. 72). He also

Arab critics led to his resignation in December 1966. But his reinstatement later was the strongest possible sign of the establishment's confidence in him. The emboldened Wasfi Al Tel now pursued even tougher policies against the PLO and Abdul Nasser closing the PLO's office in Jerusalem in 1967, withdrawing Jordan's recognition of the republican Yemen and recalling Jordan's ambassador to Egypt in February 1967. But in March 1967 Wasfi Al Tel tendered his resignation because of the impending parliamentary elections. Susser provides no conclusive proof for the dismissal of Wasfi Al Tel, but nevertheless argues that his resignation was to "placate the Palestinians without appearing to be submitting to immediate pressure" (p. 122). Further, he adds that Al Tel's general policies were not completely jettisoned and that the fact that Wasfi Al Tel was appointed as chief of royal protocol put him "at the centre of events and at the highest level of decision-making" (p. 122).

In the sixth and seventh chapters, Susser examines Al Tel and the Six Day War and the eviction of the PLO guerrillas from Jordan. Susser quite clearly demonstrates that Wasfi Al Tel was adamantly against the war and quotes his grim

"Quite rightly observed, Wasfi Al Tel came to office with an earnest intention of bettering the existing political systems. Consequently, he embarked on a relentless campaign of purging the bureaucracy."

alludes to alleged reports that the Sandis were 'dis-satisfied' with Jordan's reconciliation with Egypt (p. 71). Additionally, in order to confront leftist and "pseudo-Marxist" radicalism which was still operating in the Kingdom, Susser claims that Wasfi Al Tel's return was also marked by official tilting towards Islam (p. 73). However, given the ominously *modus operandi* of the PLO, the Jordanian establishment was justified in its deep apprehension of the PLO's intentions of subordinating the Palestinian population on Jordanian territory to its writ. And predictably, deadlock between the Jordanian government and the PLO was inevitable. Wasfi Al Tel's firmness in the face of Ahmad Al Shukari's demands earned him great notoriety among the PLO supporters. This escalation between Jordan and the PLO led to rupture in relations in 1966.

Furthermore, deterioration in Jordan's relationship with Syria following an abortive coup, together with seditious broadcasts from Cairo against Amman and the November 1966 Israeli attack on Sumu' (south of Hebron), created a highly tense atmosphere. Fierce accusations against Wasfi Al Tel by domestic and

assassination. Susser's conclusion provides a personal reading into the composition of the socio-political system in Jordan and the role of East Banker elites. On many occasions one feels that Susser slips inside his protagonists interpreting their actions and speaking their minds. Moreover, his book does not reveal any major contribution to what is not already publicly known about Wasfi Al Tel's life. He also does not provide deep readings into the domestic political dynamics which were then in operation. For example, Susser adduces the flimsy proof that King Hussein's alleged reticence constituted an "evidence" of His Majesty's "reservations" about Al Tel when he was allegedly castigated on policy issues in a meeting which took place in late September 1971 between King Hussein, Bahjat Al Talhouni, Qasim Al Rimawi and Wasfi Al Tel (p. 168). Neither does he provide any solid analysis of the ideological objectives of Al Tel and his position on Trans-Jordanian nationalism. Most importantly, in his conclusion Susser does not discuss Wasfi Al Tel's likely chances of political survival in light of dramatic regional political developments, especially after the withering away of Nasserism, and the collapse of the bipolar international system.

However, more than any other prominent East Banker political leader, Wasfi Al Tel's political fate was inextricably linked with an intestine (but inevitable) struggle with irreconcilable and rather very extreme PLO elements. One cannot agree more with Susser's insightful observation that on the whole, Wasfi Al Tel seldom harboured any inherent anti-Palestinian sentiment per se, though probably was dispassionate enough to anticipate the dangers which over-charged Arab radicalism could bring upon Jordan and the Palestinian cause. For, in addition to his unquestionable political acumen, Wasfi Al Tel was also a Jordanian prime minister who had seen for himself (while fighting to liberate Palestine in the late forties) the disastrous consequences which had been wrought by presumptuous Palestinian nationalists. To many East Bankers, Wasfi Al Tel, especially after his dramatic and untimely death, still embodies an ultimate East Banker nationalist. Undoubtedly Wasfi Al Tel's not-too-chaudhvinistic pride in his East Banker heritage, his forceful character coupled with his courage and pragmatism will always continue to inspire admiration and curiosity.

The writer is a Ph.D candidate at the Law Department, The London School of Economics and Political Science. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

U.S. puts relations with S. Asia on new footing

By Pratap Chakravarty
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry ended a tour of Pakistan and India on Saturday aimed at forging new security relationships as part of an "even-handed" U.S. approach towards the bitter South Asian foes.

The Pentagon chief, during his talks here and in Islamabad, stressed repeatedly that the United States wanted to put its ties with India and Pakistan on a new footing in the post-cold war era.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, a former close ally of India, "old barriers to (Indo-U.S.) cooperation have been replaced by new opportunities," Mr. Perry said, welcoming a "new era in Indo-U.S. security relations."

The thaw in ties between New Delhi and Washington was reflected in the signing by the U.S. Defence Secretary of what he described as an "historic" agreement on expanding Indo-U.S. defence cooperation.

In Islamabad, Mr. Perry sought to repair once-dented ties strained by a dispute over Pakistan's nuclear programme by reviving a forum for bilateral military cooperation that had been dormant for more than four years.

In both capitals, Mr. Perry, the first U.S. defence secretary to visit the region since 1988, took pains to stress that "improved ties with one country need not be at the expense of another."

"Protecting America's interests in this new era means having security policies that are pragmatic, flexible and directed at no one," he said. Articulating a new U.S. policy emphasis on business rivalry, the Pentagon chief also said that defence cooperation goes "hand in hand with economic partnership."

Mr. Perry's departure was to be followed by the arrival just a few hours later of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, heading a large delegation of U.S. businessmen attracted by India's huge and virtually untapped market.

Mr. Brown's visit "emphasises the high importance we in the United

States place on U.S.-Indian trade and investment," Mr. Perry said.

The United States has emerged as the largest investor in India since Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao launched sweeping free-market economic reforms after taking power in June 1991.

Indian analysts, while hailing the even-handed U.S. approach to India and Pakistan, a cold war ally of the United States, said the Pentagon chief's visit did not achieve much in the way of defusing tensions on the subcontinent.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence in 1947, two of them over the disputed territory of Kashmir, and the United States has expressed fears that another conflict could involve a nuclear exchange.

"The (Indo-U.S.) agreement on defence cooperation does not, in itself, improve the security environment in the region," said Major General M.N. Banerjee, deputy chief of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, a military think-tank.

But Mr. Banerjee said the accord was significant in that it could lead to greater cooperation in other sectors, notably economic.

"The cold war is gone and a new mind-set needs to evolve," he said, adding that the security cooperation agreement "formalises our new relationship."

A Western diplomat said "the agreement on defence cooperation will remain restricted to what is on paper because it simply does not address regional conflicts."

Jasjit Singh, who heads the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, warned that much remains to be done to foster "mutual confidence" between Washington and New Delhi.

"There is no cause to be euphoric about the new process of (Indo-U.S.) defence cooperation; nor does it call for cynicism," he wrote in a commentary published in the Indian Express.

"Both sides will have to work sincerely to give partnership a chance and not demand too much of each other too soon."

For Russian military, journalists are the enemy

By Margaret Shapiro

MOSCOW — Russia's military, fighting its first war under close media scrutiny, has focused on journalists and their equipment in an effort to halt the daily barrage of horrific battlefield images, according to journalists and press advocacy groups here.

In the most recent incident, which provoked suspicions of official sabotage, a satellite dish used by many Western television agencies to send reports from the battle zone was vandalised and made inoperable.

Searing television pictures of fighting and body-strewn streets have made a mockery of Russian claims that the war is nearly over and casualties are low, and have increased public opposition to the military incursion.

The incident, at a press compound in Khasavyurt, a town just across Chechnya's eastern border, is unlikely to halt the coverage. Another satellite is still in operation, protected by armed guards around the clock, journalists said.

"It could've been someone who just didn't realise what they were doing," said an employee with World-Wide Television News, a part owner of the satellite. "But given what's going on here, I don't think anyone thinks that's what really happened."

Since the Russian attack

on the breakaway Chechen region began nearly a month ago, two journalists have been killed, including an American photographer during a Russian bombing. Dozens have been shot at by Russian soldiers, two of them seriously wounded, and many others lost equipment and film at gunpoint, according to reporters and the Fund for the Defence of Glasnost, a Russian press advocacy group.

"The authorities do not want to see any opinion that's different from their own," said Oleg Panfilov, who has compiled a long list of incidents involving journalists for the Glasnost Fund. "Journalists are seen as the enemy."

Mr. Panfilov said he had no evidence but believed that the harassment of journalists was a policy adopted by the military leadership.

The people who wanted the war, he said "are interested in preventing journalists from doing their jobs."

"If it were not for TV footage," he said, "nobody would know just how bad things are there."

President Boris Yeltsin signalled the official hostility towards journalists two weeks ago when he asserted that some reporters were in the pay of the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev. A similar allegation of tainted coverage was made by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

Washington Post.

Israel reneged on promised freeze of W. Bank settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — More than 2,000 housing starts were approved in Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank last year despite a government promise to the Americans to stop most building, according to studies released Tuesday.

The total number of homes now under construction in settlements is about 4,000, the contractors association said Tuesday. According to a housing ministry report leaked to the Israeli media, the government planned to accelerate the pace of building this year.

The building drive, with an emphasis on Jerusalem satellite settlements, appears to be part of a last-minute land grab in the West Bank before Israel and the Palestinians begin negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories next year.

Palestinian leaders and Israeli liberals warned Tuesday that the government could torpedo autonomy negotiations.

On a hilltop outside the West Bank settlement of Psagot, hundreds of Palestinians led by officials from Yasser Arafat's self-rule government protested the construction policy Tuesday and clashed with Israeli troops.

"The claim that Israel stopped or froze settlement construction is a hot trap," said one of the protesters, Palestinian Transportation Minister Abdul Aziz Haj. "If they continue to expand, it will destroy the peace process."

Israeli legislator Dedi Zucker said continued building in the West Bank showed bad faith by Israel.

"If we go on with the construction, it will be proof to the Palestinians and to the world... that we don't really mean it when we say we want an end occupation," said Mr. Zucker of the liberal Meretz party, a junior partner in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Coalition government.

But Mr. Rabin said Tuesday the government never promised a complete settlement freeze, and said at the time some investment in continuing settlements would continue.

He suggested the Americans backed the Israeli position.

"We have understandings with the Americans concerning certain things, which re-

By Jonathan Freedland

WHEN Americans marked Martin Luther King Day on Monday one group in particular remembered the preacher's plea for equal rights, and repeated his demand that people be judged not by the colour of their skin, but by the colour of their character. This group was not black Americans, but the nation's hottest new constituency: angry white men.

Declaring that they have had enough of being pushed aside in the name of political correctness (PC) and multiculturalism, America's white males are fighting back.

From the grass roots of California to Congress and the Supreme Court, they are declaring war on the positive discrimination which they say has turned them into victims, denying them opportunity because of their colour and gender. Their aim is nothing less than to roll back two decades of political orthodoxy.

The focus of the movement is, fittingly, California. America's largest state spawned some of PC's greatest excesses, from mandatory bilingualism to the labelling of Shakespeare and Milton as DWEMs, Dead White European Males. Now California is leading the movement to undo it all.

Two San Francisco academics are seeking to place a California Civil Rights Initiative on statewide ballots in 1996 — to coincide with the next presidential election. If they gather 615,000 names the state will have a referendum on "affirmative action." If it passes there will be no more official preference granted to women and minorities in awarding jobs and contracts.

Under U.S. law, state bodies can and do favour women, blacks and Hispanics over white males — all in the name of remedying past discrimination. It is this above all else that has put the "angry" into angry white men. Across America white males complain of losing out to less qualified rivals, squeezed out by PC quotas.

"It really burns your butt," says Randy Pech, whose case will be heard next week by the U.S. Supreme Court. He is suing the government after his company lost a federal building contract in Colorado. His firm entered the cheapest bid, but was beaten by a Hispanic-run concern. "We're a small, family-owned company. We don't discriminate. Why should we be punished?"

The Supreme Court, now with a moderate-conservative majority, could well agree and use Mr. Pech's case to reduce sharply the scope of affirmative action. His lawyers are asking the court to bring federal law into line with state and local laws, which bar positive discrimination except when it corrects proven past prejudice.

Much is at stake. Under schemes started 20 years ago by Richard Nixon, racial calculations play a part in government spending on everything from defence parts to cleaning contracts. More than \$13 billion of federal money goes to small businesses owned by minorities.

The whitelash starts here

Two decades of political correctness have cost some American men dear. Now they're fighting back



California Governor Pete Wilson — always a canny reader of the public mood — has lent his support, announcing that he, too, supports eliminating preference programmes. Mr. Wilson was criticised last November for supporting Proposition 187, which denied key public services to illegal immigrants. But the measure passed with a whopping majority. The Civil Rights Initiative offers just the same brew of touchy racial and economic issues, and opponents are already gearing up for a re-run of the Proposition 187 battle.

The anger that fuels the movement is striking because it cuts across all the usual boundaries. You hear the same complaints from the

firefighter in Wisconsin as the journalist in New York — both claiming to be punished for being part of a shamed elite.

Senator Jesse Helms, bare noire of the left, struck this same nerve in his 1990 Senate re-election campaign. His TV ad showed a pair of white hands clutching a job rejection letter, while a voiceover revealed the vacancy had gone to a "minority." Mr. Helms came from behind and won.

Women are no less a target for the white male's anger. Hollywood has played to it twice in the last two months. The plot of *Disclosure* has Michael Douglas being sexually harassed by a ruthless Demi Moore and losing a

promotion to her; while David Mamet's *Oleanna* articulated male frustration at the purported tyranny of workplace rules against sexual harassment.

For positive discrimination has not been confined to the public sector. Top companies have invited multiculturalism consultants to advise on sensitivity, and middle-managers have found their own fortunes contingent on the ethnic and sexual diversity of their payrolls.

But now there is a counterblast to the PC mindset, and it has even reached the birthplace of political correctness: American academe. Academic and critic Harold Bloom ruffled feathers last year with his book *Western*

Canon for asserting the superiority of dozens of white male writers. His inclusion of Philip Roth nine times in his Top 500 — and his exclusion of black female heroines such as Alice Walker — was the first indication that the intellectual tide was turning no less than the political one.

Since then has come the best-selling *Dictatorship of Virtue* by Richard Bernstein, a diatribe against the inherently anti-pluralistic excesses of multiculturalism. Written by a liberal from the PC-sensitive New York Times, the book amounted to the breaking of a taboo.

The opposition is already forming, fearful of losing the real gains positive discrimination has made. Former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson has been swift: "This is yet another effort to roll back the process of inclusion," he said.

Interestingly, Mr. Jackson will not be able to rely even on solid black support. A growing number of middle-class blacks are conservatives, in the mould of controversial Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. They argue that affirmative action has produced more racism, not less, by causing resentment, and undermining legitimate black achievement.

"He only got the job because of his colour," Obed black writers note, that the real beneficiaries of positive discrimination have been well-to-do white women and that pure economic need would be a fairer criterion.

The "whitelash" is gaining strength each day. Many of the Republican young Turks now in Congress owe their seats to angry white male voters. Some are pushing for a federal law against preference for "protected groups" and may attach riders to all spending bills, preventing government agencies discriminating positively.

If it passed, President Clinton would either have to sign it or veto it. A veto would hand the Republicans just the kind of campaign issue on which they would love to fight for the White House in 1996. But approval would split the Democratic coalition by pitting women and blacks against the angry white men of organised labour.

Perhaps the most striking thought is not this latest counter-revolution itself so much as the simple fact that America is still obsessed with the same topics that preoccupied it in King's day, and in the civil war a century before: race, race and race.

The Guardian

Jordan backs resolution

(Continued from page 1)

month.

Mr. Kabarti will visit Tunisia on Wednesday in response to an invitation by Tunisian Foreign Minister Ali Habib Ben Yahya.

Mr. Kabarti will hold talks with Tunisian officials on bilateral relations and issues pertaining to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Tunisian Joint Committee to be hosted by Tunisia and chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Reporting on the Jerusalem Committee's meetings, Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali

told Reuters that the 16-member panel also discussed forming an Islamic agency to raise funds for Jerusalem and help Palestinians rebuild their institutions there and buy Arab homes back from Israel.

He said the existing Jerusalem Fund had run out of cash and the new agency, which if it went ahead would be run by finance ministers of member states, would seek contributions from the OIC countries and from private sources.

The exact function and brief of the agency was still being discussed, he said.

Chechens announce truce

(Continued from page 1)

karov, who were sent here Sunday by the Chechen leader.

The Chechen envoys, due to return to Grozny on Wednesday, came with a mandate from Mr. Dudayev to discuss a ceasefire, saying this was "an essential condition for a political agreement and talks on a broad, long-term accord."

In Grozny, Chechen fighters reacted with suspicion and scorn to Mr. Chernomyrdin's televised appeal Monday night. They unleashed a string of obscenities and spat in contempt.

"We don't trust Yeltsin. Chernomyrdin is not important. The war will go on," said a Chechen fighter who gave his first name as Salman.

Yemen softens stand in row

(Continued from page 1)

with Saudi Arabia are likely to prevent us from resorting to international arbitration.

Mr. Ansi told the press conference: "We are ready to discuss borders as long as it is done equitably," warning that "in the past, Yemen rejected even the original Taif agreement."

Saudi-Yemeni relations deteriorated during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Sanaa of backing Baghdad, and worsened during Yemen's two-month civil war last year.

Meanwhile an economic delegation travelling with Mr. Saleh said they had "excellent contacts" with French officials, and businessmen aimed at attracting investment to Yemen, which lost

\$11 billion in the May-July war.

Mr. Saleh, who flew to the Hague later Tuesday, blamed Riyadh for the recent escalation of tension along the border.

Last week "the Saudis massed air, land and naval forces, threatening our territorial integrity," he said.

"However, we agreed to pull back our forces to open the way to dialogue and a definitive settlement of the border issue."

Riyadh earlier denied that it had massed troops on the border.

Mr. Saleh also said Saudi Arabia had three military bases in Jazan province.

"But when relations are normal there will be nothing to worry about," he added.

2,700 feared dead in Japan

(Continued from page 1)

in search of shelter and warmth.

Kobe's Sannomiya district, normally alive with shoppers, bar-hoppers and nightclubbers, was almost deserted at nightfall, except for a group of about 30 people milling aimlessly in front of the darkened railway station.

On the outskirts of town, almost every house had collapsed. Burglar alarms blared, shattering the quiet.

Tokyo escaped unscathed. The quake was barely felt in the capital, 450 kilometres to the east.

"I thought it was the end of the world," said 64-year-old Minoru Takasu, whose house fell down around him in Nishinomiya, outside Kobe.

"I survived by sliding into a small gap between a dish cabinet and the wall," he told the Asahi newspaper. "I'm happy to be alive."

As night closed in, rescuers

dug into rubble with their hands to search for more than 1,000 missing people, including 20 patients trapped in the debris of a collapsed Kobe hospital.

Dzuzens of cars were squashed by the collapse of an elevated highway just outside Kobe, and 10 trains were derailed.

A total of nearly 10,000 houses, buildings and other structures were completely destroyed or partially damaged by the quake, which struck Japan's second-most populated area and one of its most industrialised, the national police agency said.

Damage and casualties were in 100 kilometres radius around Kobe, extending to Osaka and Kyoto, where temples and priceless Buddha statues were damaged.

Nearly all the dead and more than half the injured were in the elegant city of Kobe, which nestles between mountains and the Sea of

Japan.

The toll was expected to grow as dead were pulled from the rubble, and as communications links were restored, allowing authorities to gather fuller reports.

The earthquake was the most violent to strike a densely populated area since 1948, when a quake killed more than 5,000 people in the northwest city of Fukui.

"There have been earthquakes as strong as this one, but not in a metropolitan area," said quake expert Masayuki Kikuchi, a professor at Yokohama City university.

The quake snapped vital lifelines to western Japan, cutting train service including the high-speed "Bullet" train, knocking out power and curbing telephone service.

The earthquake also shattered Japan's belief that its newer buildings and roads

would be able to withstand a major quake due to sophisticated engineering.

During U.S. earthquakes that have wrecked roads, Japanese experts had confidently predicted those in this country would stand up to even a serious quake. But sections of several major expressways collapsed, as did many modern buildings.

Reuter correspondent Abi Sekimitsu, who flew over the devastated area in a helicopter, said the scene resembled one of Japan's "Godzilla" monster movies with the landscape scarred by fires, twisted roads and crumpled buildings.

"From the air it looks as though some prehistoric creature had trampled through the area," she said.

The quake, officially named "the 1995 Southern Hyogo Prefecture Earthquake," struck at 5.46 a.m. (2046 GMT), rumbling across the centre of Honshu island from the Japan Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

The epicentre of the quake, was located about 20 kilometres beneath the island of Awajishima, which is about 30 kilometres offshore from Kobe.

Many houses also collapsed on the island, which is a fishing village and popular tourist spot for the 1.5 million residents of Kobe, Japan's main western port.

The quake was the latest in

a series of tremors that have rolled through northern and central Japan in the last three weeks.

Experts had been warning that a major earthquake might be on its way for the past few weeks. The latest quake hit nine days after three major tremors, ranging from a 5.2 on the Richter scale just outside Tokyo to 6.9 and 4.2 readings in Hachinohe, 500 kilometres north of the capital.

Most of the people missing were in collapsed buildings in Kobe, including an eight-storey hotel and a three-storey hotel.

"We were not prepared for this, because we never thought a quake of this magnitude could hit the Kansai area," said businessman Katsumi Takeuchi, 53.

Skies were black with sooty smoke over western and central Kobe, the hardest hit areas of the city, as fire raged through many districts.

Long lines formed at the few functioning public phones in the city centre.

The Hanshin highway linking Kobe with nearby Osaka lay in ruins following the collapse of about half a kilometre of an elevated section once supported by 30-metre pillars. Elevated highways were reported to have collapsed at another eight points across the city, crushing several drivers to death. Seven trains were de-

railed and five bullet-train bridges destroyed.

For some there was a miraculous escape. Koji Kuwahara, a company worker in nearby Nishinomiya, described how he was driving on the expressway, when the road "suddenly wavered and the highway fell over towards the mountainside."

"My car and others slipped off together," he said.

The shallowness of the quake and its proximity to a major population centre were also blamed for the massive destruction.

"The damage would have been much worse if it occurred during business hours," Yoshi Kawata of Kyoto University noted.

The Bank of Japan ordered financial institutions in western Japan to take emergency measures from Wednesday to supply depositors with cash.

The Osaka-Kobe conurbation is one of the wealthiest regions in Japan, but local officials were agog at the scale of the economic damage inflicted by nature.

Kobe Steel Ltd., one of Japan's biggest steelmakers, suspended production at its steelworks here, one of its main plants in Japan.

Matsushita, the world's largest consumer electronics maker, also halted production at its Kobe plant which makes personal computers, word processors and video games.

Saddam: Anti-Iraq camp is crumbling

(Continued from page 1)

the holy sites of Mecca and Medina into "a theatre for the army of the infidels" during the war.

He praised the performance of his army in the 42-day war which resulted in the ousting of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"Despite the long confrontation in which all weapons of destruction and death were used as well as the ensuing acts of treason prompted by the anti-Arab hatred coming from Iran, Iraq and its army have emerged strong despite all the wounds or the loss of life of sons and brothers."

"This has infuriated aggressors who have come to realise that they completely failed, especially after Iraq has reconstructed all that had been destroyed by the aggressors."

In Kuwait, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al

Sabah said Iraq was still a threat to Kuwait and relations would not be resumed while President Saddam was in power, despite his recognition of the emirate's sovereignty.

"Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait does not end anything. The ruling regime in Iraq will harbour aggressive intentions," Sheikh Saad, who is also prime minister, was quoted as saying by Kuwait's Al Watan daily Tuesday.

Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashed Al Maktoum, Dubai's crown prince, meanwhile, defended his controversial call on Kuwait to make peace with Iraq.

"My call for the brothers in Kuwait to extend bridges of love with Iraq and the Iraqi people flows out of my love for Kuwait and its people and keen interest (for their welfare)," he said in an interview published Wednesday in Kuwait's Al Seyassah daily.

Sheikh Mohammad, who is the UAE's defence minister, was recently named by Dubai's ruling Maktoum family as crown prince of Dubai, the second largest emirate federated in the UAE.

His call for Kuwaitis to "forget the past" and make up with Iraq last week sent shock waves through Kuwait.

Sheikh Mohammad told Al Seyassah that while his call has met with opposition, it has also won support from Gulf and Arab officials.

In the Al Seyassah interview, he also called on Arab leaders to take the initiative and set up a pan-Arab economic bloc, a step which he believes would unify the 22 members of the Arab League.

The Arabs "have the economic, human and material potential," he said. "So why don't we form an economic bloc unifying our (Arab) Nation?"

Raboin said that while the issue was beyond the immediate jurisdiction of his panel, Jordan stood a "better chance of establishing a direct linkage between the crisis and the losses it suffered." He would not elaborate.

Funds for the committee are supposed to come from the diversion of 30 per cent of all Iraqi oil exports as called for in U.N. Security Council Resolution 778 of October 1992. But as long as Iraqi oil sales remain frozen under the sanctions, the committee has

little to look forward to in revenues from this direction.

The "less than \$50 million" the fund received so far came from a special U.N. account to which several countries transferred frozen Iraqi oil assets as the resolution called for.

The account received several hundred million dollars, including \$200 million from the U.S. and around \$100 million from Saudi Arabia, but the amount had to be distributed among five distinct U.N. agencies or special committees dealing with separate areas related to the enforcement of the Security

Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. These tasks involve demarcation of new Iraq-Kuwait borders (which is already completed), the monitoring of the frontier and elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Forty-three countries which have Iraqi oil assets have not transferred the funds to the account because Resolution 778 left it to the judgement of individual governments to make the transfer depending on whether they themselves or local businesses stood to claim compensation for losses suffered in the Gulf crisis.

Gulf crisis fund studying claims

(Continued from page 12)

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U.S. agriculture official sees great opportunity in Mideast

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A top U.S. official, pointing out that the economic growth in the Middle East could surpass that of China and India, said that there is a great opportunity for U.S. agriculture in the region.

Eugene Moos, under-secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services, told members of the American Business Council in Dubai Monday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will act as a conduit for information to the Gulf region.

His remarks were published in newspapers here Tuesday.

"As I go around the world looking at emerging markets in terms of attempting to

focus our resources, I can see great potential in this area," Mr. Moos said. "It's more than an emerging market, it's a sophisticated market, and I see great opportunity here for U.S. agriculture."

Mr. Moos was in the emirate for the Gulf Food Exhibition at the Dubai World Trade Centre, at which more than 50 U.S. companies are participating.

He outlined U.S. agricultural interests and highlighted the gradual phasing out of government farm subsidies in the coming years to improve U.S. competitiveness around the globe.

"I become very excited about the potential for food growth and food demand

around the world, seeing how even \$200-\$300 of per capita income, when multiplied by hundreds and millions of people in China, Indonesia and now India, will provide the growth," Mr. Moos said.

"We're now able to recognize the potential in this area of the world, and that's one message I'll be carrying back to share with the Department of Agriculture, administration officials, and members of the new Congress," he noted.

Mr. Moos explained that the United States needs to get organized to get a share of the growing food market around the world.

The Department of Agriculture sees one of its major responsibilities as acting as a

conduit for information to U.S. food supplies and processors on emerging markets like the Gulf.

The department is also interested in assisting developing countries to enhance their agricultural sectors, and can provide technical expertise, a vital part of their economic growth and potential for becoming U.S. customers, he said.

"When I look at Dubai I'm struck by how similar it is to what I saw in Hong Kong or Singapore, where a lot of trade is being channelled through one centre, and it seems to me the potential here is enormous to satisfy the growing demand which is to come," Mr. Moos added.

Kuwait must end spending waste — premier

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's prime minister said in remarks published Tuesday he wanted to rationalise government spending to eliminate waste and extravagance and raise sources of revenue other than oil to curb a big budget deficit.

"There is squandering and extravagance, hence there must also be rationalisation of spending," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told Al Watan newspaper.

"We do not think about our present only. We care for the future generations," said Sheikh Saad, who is also the crown prince.

The government, in its most ambitious effort at fiscal restraint, plans to slash a Gulf war-inflated budget deficit by a third to one billion dinars (\$3.34 billion) in the

1995/96 financial year starting on July 1.

Officials are worried by a deficit that has ballooned due to the war in which a U.S.-led alliance ejected Iraq from the emirate. The government says that next year it will cut spending in several sectors, reduce subsidies on petrol and services such as water and electricity and increase customs levies.

The measures are bound to generate heated debate among 670,000 Kuwaitis used to generous welfare state benefits. Some benefits are also extended to the million-strong army of guest workers who make up the rest of the 1.7 million population.

Sheikh Saad gave no details of public spending waste but said proposed increases

in charges for public utilities should not be imposed on less well-off Kuwaitis and other residents.

The measures were not aimed at "gaining profits for the government" but at rationalising the use of such services.

"Yes, there is a financial deficit as the figures show. But God willing that deficit will not continue, and at the same time, sooner or later, there ought to be some other sources of revenue found in support of the current one (oil)," he said.

Oil accounts for 90 per cent of state revenue, a marked change from before the war

when income from now-depleted state foreign investments sometimes exceeded oil earnings.

Economists say increasing non-oil revenue will have to be done by encouraging the growth of a moribund private sector depressed by worries about Iraq, debt problems and a fall in population since the 1991 conflict.

The government has also said that in the long term income tax might have to be introduced. Sheikh Saad made no mention of tax and gave no details of the new service charges, saying it was premature to talk about what formula would be used.

Rouble falls to 3,900 to the dollar

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble slumped to below 3,900 to the dollar Tuesday from 3,881 a day ago in interbank trading investors dumped the currency for fear of inflation and political uncertainty triggered by the Chechen crisis.

Bankers said the rouble was likely to tumble through the psychological barrier of 4,000 to the dollar by the end of this week — compared to 3,550 at end-December and 3,234 at end-November.

"There is very strong pressure on the rouble because of Chechnya. The government will have to print money to finance the war and inflation will go up," said Victor Huzac of ITS Finance.

"Everyone is trying to get into dollars. Treasury bills and shares are no longer attractive. People are trimming down their equity positions and switching to dollars," he added.

The rouble fell to 3,861 to the dollar on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEK) from 3,817.

Bankers said overnight rouble interest rates, at around 150 per cent now, could soar to 200 in the coming days because banks needed more and more roubles to buy dollars.

Japan urged to supply technology to GCC states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states have urged Japan to export their technology to help diversify their economies and make them more than just suppliers of oil to the Asian industrial giant.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states raised the issue at a Tokyo conference which brought together more than 400 officials and businessmen from the two sides, GCC Secretary-General Fahim Ibn Sultan Al Qassimi said.

"We presented some ideas, which showed that we want Japan to be a partner in development in the GCC," he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad. "We do not want our relationship to remain limited to buying and marketing Japanese products. We want Japan to help us in acquiring technology."

Gulf officials said they had asked their Japanese counterparts at the November conference to set up joint industrial ventures in the region as a means to transfer technology to member states.

In return, they pledged long-term, stable crude supplies to the southeast Asian country at reasonable prices. But they added the Japanese

response had been cool concerning the setting up of large industrial projects.

"They showed strong enthusiasm for setting up light and medium sized industries but were cool about our calls to establish heavy industries on the grounds the regional market is not large enough," one official told AFP.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE — have been locked in negotiations with the European Union and other key industrial powers in a bid to persuade them to invest in industries in their region.

They say such projects could be among the most profitable in the world as labour is cheap and their region sits atop 45 per cent of the world's total proven crude reserves of more than one trillion barrels.

But like the Japanese, Western industrialists have been reluctant to commit themselves to major projects, arguing the region is small and investment laws are not encouraging enough due to restrictions on foreign ownership.

GCC states have criticised Japan for its low investment

in the region compared with their high trade. Such investments are estimated at around \$4 billion, a fraction of Tokyo's worldwide assets of \$380.5 billion.

Japan is the top single economic partner of the GCC, with two-way trade reaching nearly \$33 billion in 1993. The figure is expected to be lower in 1994 due to weak demand for Japanese products caused by a surge in the Yen.

"We are still hopeful Japan will help us in obtaining technology because we expect our relationship to strengthen in future as Japan will rely more on our oil. They know this but we made clear we do not want to be just a source of energy," said a UAE official who attended the Tokyo conference.

Japan currently imports around 2.6 million barrels per day (b/d) from the GCC, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of its total crude needs.

The level will exceed 70 per cent by 2000 due to a projected decline from other supply sources, according to Japanese oil executives.

To ensure steady supplies, Japan has sought more share in the Gulf oil sector.

U.S. firms win more Indian deals

NEW DELHI (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown announced more deals for American companies Tuesday, bringing the total amount reaped during a ground-breaking trade mission to India to \$4 billion.

"I am absolutely exhilarated," Mr. Brown told reporters following a 90-minute meeting with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The \$2.6 billion in power, petrochemicals, telecommunications and health-care agreements followed \$1.4 billion that were signed the previous day.

Mr. Brown said Mr. Rao told him India's three-year-old free-market reforms, which have begun attracting modest amounts of U.S. and other foreign investment, were irreversible.

"He made an absolute, unequivocal commitment to a continuation of the economic reform process," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Brown, leading the largest ever U.S. trade and investment mission, said Mr. Rao responded positively to a suggestion, backed by U.S. big business, that India open up its financial services and insurance industries to outside companies.

But Mr. Brown said the

purpose of his mission was not to press Mr. Rao's government into adopting more reforms.

"We are very pleased with the level of economic reform," he said. "These were not meetings where we were pressuring, or bludgeoning the prime minister."

Mr. Brown said he also raised the issue of protection of intellectual-property rights, where he said India had made progress but needed to do more, as well as corruption.

Washington has been pressing New Delhi to provide stronger copyright protection and guard against commercial piracy. U.S. companies have urged India to make bidding procedures for big government contracts more transparent to prevent corruption.

The United States is India's biggest trade and investment partner but recognises that competition for a marketing hold in the second, most populous nation is heating up.

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Mr. Brown signed a pact setting up the U.S.-India Commercial Alliance, which will bring government officials and companies together to boost business ties.

Malaysia tipped for another high-growth year, with problems

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia is tipped to enjoy economic growth of above eight per cent in 1995 but may have to grapple with serious labour, wage, productivity and infrastructure problems, experts have warned.

"There is already a shortage of skilled labour and wages are climbing faster than work output," said Pami Kishari, secretary-general of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"There're also bottlenecks in power and water supplies," Mr. Ramli told a conference outlining the prospects of 1995 for Southeast Asia's fastest growing economy.

Malaysia's gross domestic product has expanded by an average of more than eight per cent for the past seven years.

Mr. Ramli and some 100 businessmen, economists and officials at Tuesday's conference hosted by the Malaysian

Strategic Research Centre, a private think-tank, said they were looking at between eight per cent and 8.5 per cent growth this year.

Mr. Ramli said a strong rise in domestic and external demand was expected to contribute largely to this year's economy, resulting in an even stronger need for cost-effective labour to turn out the additional goods and services required.

"Our labour problem is not quantity. It's quality," said

Ghazali Atan, a private economist. "We can get more foreign and women workers for general labour but training them for skilled work and maintaining them cost-effectively is hard," said Mr. Ghazali.

Wages rose 6.7 per cent last year compared with a five per cent expansion in productivity, economists said.

Officials have singled out the 22 per cent rise given to banking clerks at the end of last year as the most extreme

wage hike, saying it could pressure workers in other less-profitable sectors to demand similar increments, which could fuel inflation.

"This would surely impact on our competitiveness and the trend in wage increase if not watched very carefully," Mr. Ramli said.

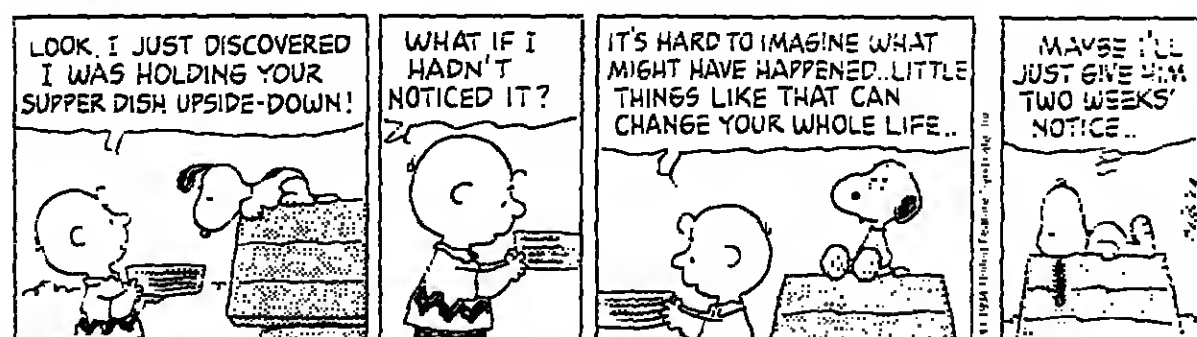
He said Malaysian firms should penetrate more emerging markets to stay competitive and form independent professional bodies

to study wage increases appropriate for the economy.

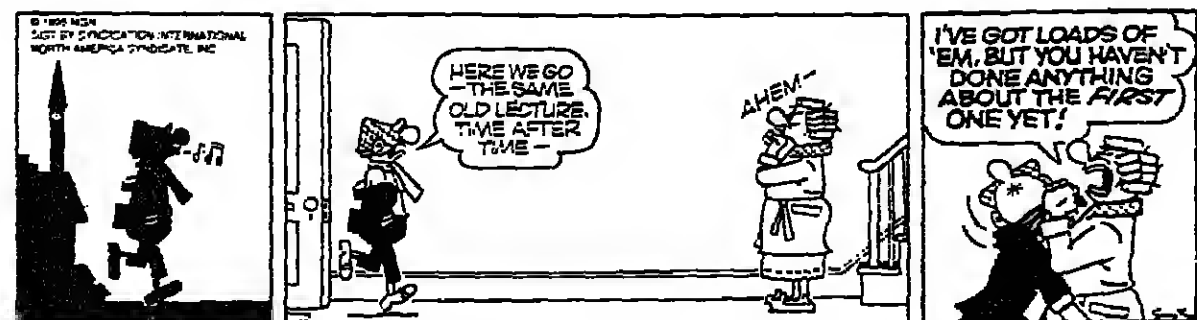
Sulaiman Mahbob, executive director of the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, said total exports were expected to grow 21 per cent this year despite constraints in infrastructure.

Mr. Sulaiman also said he expected inflation to be capped at four per cent owing to tight monetary measures taken by the government to mop up liquidity.

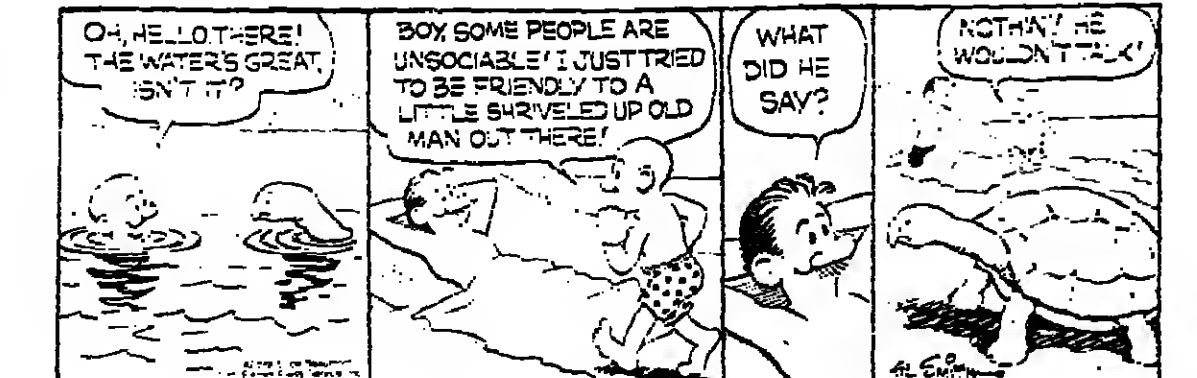
Peanuts



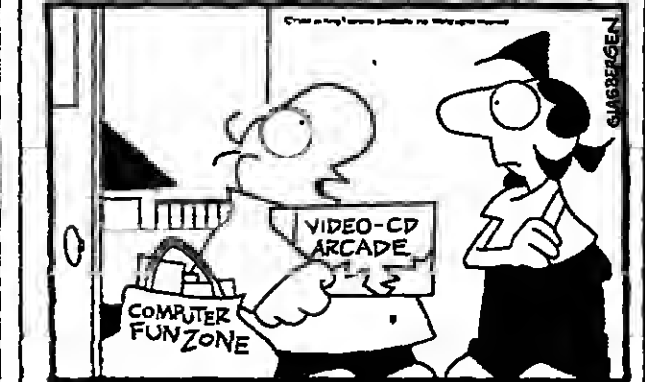
Andy Capp



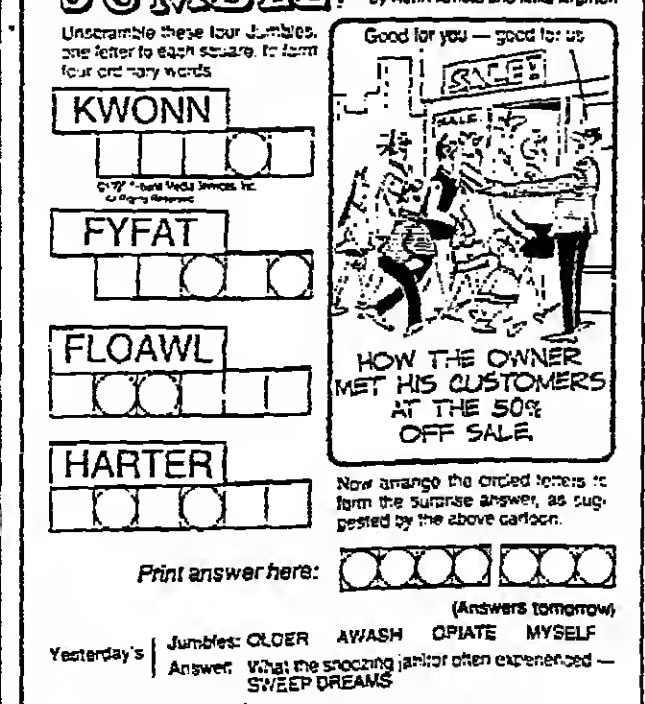
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Clear your mind of confusion and avoid confrontation this morning as the Leo Moon opposes Mercury. Although there are no aspects in effect the rest of the day and evening things will work to your advantage if you avoid taking any risks.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You get a flood of ideas which should be weeded out and the best of such utilised to your advantage for you to be successful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A partner may have an eye on your mate, but don't quarrel over it and all will be fine. Find a better way of handling your obligations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't be so concerned with your tasks that you fail to gain a big favour from one who is generous in the outside world.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is an ideal day for handling tasks you have agreed to do, but don't run off on any tangents. Be careful of your comments.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to enjoy entertainments which you like without family interference. Forget that home activity which is not important.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be happy at home and don't let some outsider try to interfere with your pleasure. Invite charming persons to visit you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is an ideal day for communicating well with associates and don't allow some monetary worry to deter you from your activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Financial affairs are best handled during the daytime but concentrate more on acquiring than spending. Take it easy today.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do whatever is best to improve your well-being even though some duties could be boring. Be happy and satisfied about a new project.

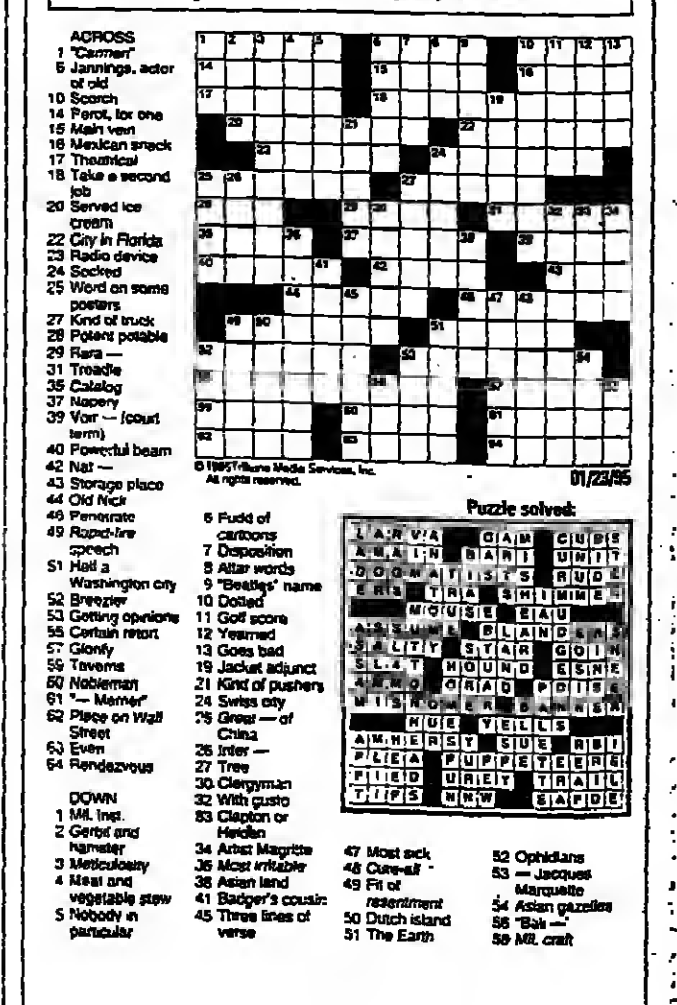
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good day to see an advisor and make fine plans for the future. Don't permit a friend to take you away from the practical.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A fine day for being with good friends and enjoying them. Get away from career pressures for a while to regain your equilibrium.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle vocational and credit affairs first and do not go off on some tangent. A powerful individual can give you the support you need.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

THE Daily Crossword



Business & Finance

Paper is no longer a cheap commodity

★ Paper converting factories have stopped supplying the market because of the very high international prices of the commodity. An owner of a such a factory said that unless local prices for paper are hiked, manufacturers will suffer big losses. Another manufacturer said he was stopping all paper delivery unless prices are increased. An official at the Ministry of Supply said a committee representing the concerned parties is currently studying the evolution of paper prices and a decision will be taken according to its findings. The last time the Ministry of Supply reviewed paper prices was in 1990, but international prices have risen recently by 15 to 20 per cent (Al Dustour).

★ According to market sources the Ministry of Agriculture Sunday (Jan. 15) resumed issuing licences to import Romanian meat and live sheep. A ban was imposed last week after some Romanian beef was found contaminated (Al Aswaq).

★ The association of pharmacists' board decided to ban contacts and dealings with all Israeli medical organisations. The association said governments could sign treaties but could not force normalisation of ties on private establishments and the people at large (Al Ra'i).

★ According to new instructions issued by the water authority, the price of one cubic metre of drinking water sold by water tanks is JD 1.750 within the Greater Amman area. The price is JD 1.500 per cubic metre for delivery outside Amman (Al Ra'i).

★ The Cabinet decided to bring service charges provided by the Ports Authority to JD 1,000 per passenger for the handling of luggage and 750 fils for general services (Al Ra'i).

★ Cars and buses manufactured in 1989 or before will not be given customs clearance in accordance with a decision taken by the Cabinet on Nov. 5, 1978 (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ Taxpayers who are entitled to refunds from the Income Tax Department can collect their payments starting next week. The payment will be done on a first "applied" first paid basis. (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ A delegation representing the chambers of commerce in Gaza will Friday begin a 3-day visit to Jordan (Al Ra'i).

★ Former minister Jawad Anani said Jordan succeeded in convincing 37 countries and three international organisations of the need to set up a development bank for the Middle East. Dr. Anani also said that the economic summit for the Mideast will be held annually, with the third meeting to be held in Turkey in October 1996 (Al Dustour).

★ The General Association for Construction Workers/White Cement branch presented a list of demands to the general manager of the Arab Company for Manufacturing White Cement. The demands are for higher salaries and allowances, more leave days and better health coverage (Al Dustour).

★ The director-general of the Customs Department decided there is any intention for more reductions in customs on cars. He also emphasised that by joining GATT, Jordan is under no obligation to reduce its tariffs to unacceptable levels whereby industries and other resources would be affected (Al Dustour).

SSC weighs changing early retirement terms

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is considering an increase in the minimum age and years of subscription to its fund at which most beneficiaries could opt for early retirement pensions, an SSC official told the Jordan Times Tuesday. Currently, any SSC subscriber 46 years of age or more who has paid subscription fees to the SSC for at least 15 years, may claim a monthly pension reduced by 10 per cent from the regular rate, receivable at age 55. However, there is a general opinion in the SSC that the current conditions for early retirement should be amended and limited instead to those working in jobs demanding hard physical labour, and women with families to care for, said Ali Issa, executive director of public relations at the SSC. The current conditions for early retirement in the Social Security Law, unmodified since it was enacted in 1978, were originally set up with labourers facing heavy physical toil and mothers with families in mind, Mr. Issa said, as well as alleviating unemployment problems for young people by giving senior workers the opportunity for secure early retirement.

Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close 16/1/95	Tokyo Close 17/1/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5685	1.5645**
Deutsche Mark	1.5365	1.5362
Swiss Franc	1.8845	1.8895**
French Franc	5.2925	5.2995**
Japanese Yen	98.59	99.26
European Currency Unit	1.2350	1.2352**

* USD Per 100
** European Closing @ 230 GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.87	6.37	6.81
Sterling Pound	5.61	6.06	6.18	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.66	4.87	5.12	5.62
Swiss Franc	5.56	5.81	6.12	6.37
French Franc	5.37	5.75	6.18	6.75
Japanese Yen	2.17	2.25	2.31	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.82	6.12	6.37	7.02

Interbank bid rates for pounds sterling (USD 1,000/GBP 100) as of 17/1/95

Precious Metals	USD/100g	USD/100g	USD/100g	USD/100g
Gold	377.80	7.50	Silver	4.80
Platinum	1,110.00	0.110		

* Per 100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	USD	Other
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0914	1.0969
Deutsche Mark	0.4534	0.4561
Swiss Franc	0.5405	0.5432
French Franc	0.1313	0.1320
Japanese Yen*	0.7025	0.7060
Dutch Guilder	0.4046	0.4066
Swedish Krona	0.4055	0.4055
Italian Lira*	0.0455	0.0455
Belgian Franc	0.0455	0.0455

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8550	1.8480
Lebanese Lira*	0.041425	0.042785
Saudi Riyal	0.7854	0.7870
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.5620
Qatari Riyal	0.1905	0.1918
Egyptian Pound	0.2080	0.2140
Omani Riyal	1.8000	1.8130
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1906
Greek Drachma*	0.2775	0.5155
Cypriot Pound	1.4125	1.5150

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar	Deutsche marks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
1.4172/82	1.5302/12	1.7158/68	1.2840/50	31.53/57	5.2880/30	1601.0/2.0	98.72/82	7.4425/25	6.6920/70	6.0280/30	\$1.5670/80
One sterling	337.85/378.05										

Quake severely disrupts business in central Japan

TOKYO (R) — Business activities in central Japan were severely disrupted Tuesday by the massive earthquake which crippled communication lines, power cables, railways and highways. Japan's second largest bourse cancelled most trading and some financial institutions and manufacturers halted operations after the quake, which wreaked havoc in the Japanese cities of Osaka, the country's second largest, the ancient imperial capital of Kyoto and Japan's main western port of Kobe. The quake, registering 7.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, was the biggest to hit the Kansai area since 1946. Terminals at the port of Kobe, a central Japan hub for container shipping, were inoperable, and shipping lines were considering diverting their container ships to other ports in Japan to unload cargo, mostly from North America and Europe. Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura told reporters his ministry would do its utmost in extending emergency aid to the quake-hit regions. "As for securing (for the aid) we want to do our utmost because this is an emergency," he said. The ministry and the Bank of Japan jointly announced that they would take a set of emergency financial measures to be taken by financial institutions and life insurers for the victims of the latest quakes including corporations. Major computer maker Fujitsu Ltd. temporarily shut its display and peripheral plant in Akashi near Kobe as the earthquake had damaged one of the buildings, a spokesman in Tokyo said. "Because communication lines are cut, we don't know if the production line has been damaged or not," he said. Mitsubishi Electric Corp. has suspended operations at five plants in central Japan. "Water is gushing out in the compound in the Kobe plant, while sewage pipes have been damaged in the Itami plant," a Mitsubishi spokesman said. Kobe Steel Ltd., based in central Japan, stopped all operations at its two major steelworks. Automaker Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd. halted production at two plants in western Japan. "We still don't know the extent of damage at the plants due to communications problems," a Daihatsu spokesman said. Hyogo Bank Ltd. and Hanshin Bank Ltd., based in central Japan, said problems with their computer centres had forced them to shut down some of their branches today. Dowa Bank Ltd., Sumitomo Bank Ltd. and Sanwa Bank Ltd., said their host computers were unaffected, but some of their branch offices in the region were not expected to open because of traffic confusion and power cuts. Brokerage Nomura Securities Co. said the quake wreaked disorder in their two offices in Kobe. "There's a power cut, the computer's down, and the internal telephone network is also not working," a Nomura spokesman said. Airline officials in Tokyo told Reuters airports in the region, including Kansai International Airport, sustained no serious damage. But flights were delayed as many passengers and crew could not reach the airports because of traffic snarls. At least two oil refineries and several oil processing units including those of Cosmo Oil and General Sekiyu KK were shut down due to the quake, but few were reported damaged. Tokyo share prices ended lower, suppressed by small-lot selling as the earthquake kept most investors on the sidelines. The 225-share Nikkei average share finished Tuesday down 89.85 points, or 0.46 per cent at 19,241.32. Share prices of insurance companies fell in Tokyo on fears they would be liable for damage claims, while the dollar rose against the yen to around 99.27 yen on worries the quake might affect the Japanese economy. Some construction firms' share prices rose as market players speculated they would benefit from rebuilding after the quake. Japanese government bond prices closed sharply lower on worries that extra bonds might be issued to fund government emergency aid. Four commodity exchange in western Japan cancelled their trading today — the Kobe Rubber Exchange, the Kansai Agricultural Commodities Exchange, the Osaka Textile Exchange, and the Kobe Silk Exchange.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN			
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170			
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/01/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	40	7330	183.200 183.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7400	31186	4.210 4.240
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	200	830	4.170 4.180
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	9200	28218	2.890 2.860
THE HOUSING BANK	1550	9020	5.850 5.820
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	1105	3333	3.040 3.020
JORDAN GULF BANK	2450	3731	1.560 1.530
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2325	8675	3.760 3.720
SUNSHINE BANK	3000	10566	3.520 3.520
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	6700	9854	1.470 1.480
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	536	2165	4.220 4.200
PELLADEPITA INVESTMENT BANK	6793	10830	1.620 1.580
BANKS SECTOR	41899	125553	INDEX NUMBER: 157.98
			CHANGE: -0.152
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	750	1790	2.420 2.380
INSURANCE SECTOR	825	1970	INDEX NUMBER: 136.33
			CHANGE: -0.192
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	3650	5648	1.550 1.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	450	640	1.500 1.490
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	50	310	6.200 6.200
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	6000	28500	4.800 4.750
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	20	158	2.150 2.150
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2600	5688	2.240 2.260
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1400	1736	1.260 1.240
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	1200	14804	12.500 12.270
UNITED HIGLOE EAST & COMMOORE HOTELS	1750	4218	2.400 2.410
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	850	2938	3.480 3.460
SERVICES SECTOR	17980	64639	INDEX NUMBER: 130.61
			CHANGE: -0.764
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	100	2153	20.500 21.530
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3737	11043	2.960 2.960
THE ARAB FERTILISER	250	1350	5.400 5.400
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	2150	20456	9.640 9.500
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	200	840	4.250 4.200
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	100	778	7.750 7.760
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING	10000	10000	5.500 5.380
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	500	1365	2.750 2.730
DAR AL OAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3638	59463	16.410 16.200
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3550	3283	1.020 1.010
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	250	1750	7.000 7.000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	167350	156941	9.870 9.850
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1700	2380	1.410 1.390
JORDAN ROCCOOL INDUSTRIES	600	882	1.500 1.470
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & HATCH/JIMCO	13750	11008	8.000 8.000
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	200	371	1.800 1.800
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	100	265	2.630 2.650
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1050	4316	4.140 4.110
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	13000	27026	2.100 2.060
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	250163	406089	INDEX NUMBER: 127.60
			CHANGE: -0.482
GRAND TOTAL	310887	598258	INDEX NUMBER: 143.36
			CHANGE: -0.312
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	143378		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	179299		

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Courtroom battle looms over World Cup stadium

PARIS (AFP) — A courtroom battle is looming between France's most famous architect and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur over plans to build a new stadium to host football's World Cup final in 1998.

Jean Nouvel won the architectural competition to design the two billion franc (\$400 million) Grande Stade on industrial wasteland in St. Denis, eight kilometres north of Paris.

Balladur overruled the decision and picked the rival bid, adding a new twist to years of intrigue surrounding France's last big construction project of the century.

Nouvel has vowed to drag the prime minister through the courts unless he annuls the decision by the end of this week.

"If we can't get justice in France, we will go all the way to the European court," said Michel Huet, Nouvel's lawyer.

The architect is suing Balladur over breach of fair competition as stipulated under French law, arguing that the tender was rigged from start to finish in favour of a rival bid dismissed as "pathetic" by the leading French specialist magazine Architecture Today.

The state originally wanted the most advanced stadium ever conceived, seating 80,000 people for soccer, rugby, the world athletics championships, and dearest to French hearts, an Olympic Games.

To secure the financial viability of the stadium, it also demanded enough flexibility for it to serve as home base for a first division French football club — Paris St. Germain — where crowds of up to 40,000 would not feel lost in acres of empty space.

Post-modernist guru Nouvel beat a rival group of four Paris architects led by Michel Macary and Americ Zublena by 10 votes to four in a last round of jury voting in July after a preliminary round in May.

For 2.1 billion francs Nouvel offered a structure that within two days could change shape from a rectangular international rugby or football ground to an oval athletic stadium.

In addition to a sliding roof, ground capacity could be reduced to 40,000 for French club football using a system of suspended curtains shutting off unfilled areas.

The government admits the winning tender, priced at 1.9 billion francs, failed miserably on the last point, making no "realistic" attempt to accommodate club football.

According to Nouvel, the rival bid got away with a string of competition rule violations.

Major modifications to the design were illegally carried out between the two jury sittings in May and July, with the stadium changing shape and location, losing its roof, and ditching its only technological innovation, a mechanism to raise and lower the playing area.

The late changes were so radical no study of spectator visibility from the stands, a key requirement of the government, was carried out.

The government said visibility was "ideal" in Nouvel's stadium. But with stands 20 metres further away and sloping gradually, the winning design will produce "the worst stadium in France," says Nouvel.

In response to Nouvel's initial protest last month the government explained that Balladur's choice was only a "preliminary step," though the rival group is locked in contract negotiations with the government and has already applied for planning permission.

The rival architects say Nouvel is attempting to "discredit" them, while the government dismissed as "pointless" his court case which could delay plans to begin construction before the summer and complete the stadium by the end of 1997.

French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said Nouvel's plan "seduced the architects but sportsmen preferred the other."

Not so, Joao Havelange, the head of FIFA, who awarded the 1998 World Cup to France, supports Nouvel. Alliot-Marie promised him an 80,000 seater stadium with a roof.

"We originally planned a roof, but then forgot about it," said a spokesman for the winning design.

Of the leading French sports federation chiefs, rugby supremo Bernard Lapasset is alone in favouring the winning design, which he says "is shaped like a rugby ball."

Athletics federation chief Jean Poczobut prefers Nouvel's design, which also won a straw poll of the French football team. Coach Aimé Jacquet said: "Nouvel's square stadium is best. I want the stands as close as possible to the pitch."

French international Alain Roche, who also captains Paris St. Germain, for whom the Grande Stade will become the home ground, said: "A square stadium would have been better. I hope I don't have to play there very often."

Cypriot referees end strike

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot soccer referees, who went on strike over crowd violence but were replaced for last weekend's games by foreign imports, admitted defeat Tuesday and dissolved their association board.

"We are in a very weak position... first the imported referees and then our members who responded to the (football) federation's call to break away from the association," Christos Skapoulis, a spokesman for the island's 200 referees, told Reuters.

"We have dissolved our seven-member board and will elect a temporary new one tonight. We are not on strike anymore... we will come up with our proposals. We are certain no foreign referee will whistle this weekend."

Soccer officials last weekend brought in nine Israeli and 12 Czechs to replace Cypriot referees who began their strike last week, saying they could no longer tolerate violence against them by hooligans. One referee had his arm broken this month.

They were also protesting against the refusal of the Cyprus Football Federation to incorporate them while keeping their independence. The federation wants unconditional control over the referees.

Federation President Marios Lefkariotis said Tuesday more than 110 Cypriot referees had already left the association and joined the federation.

But he was not certain whether this weekend's fixtures would be officiated by Cypriot referees.

"It could be Cypriots. We don't know yet. We will decide this tomorrow... the issue is not whether the referees have a new board but the fact that their unacceptable attitude and status will remain the same."

Lefkariotis accused referees of enjoying a monopoly for too long and dismissed their assertion that they were striking because of systematic violence against them.

"How come last weekend's games were totally violence-free? Why do they try to give the impression the games are always blood-stained? There is prejudice against Cypriot referees but why?" he asked.

Ewing leads Knicks past Nets; Bulls lose

NEW YORK (API) — Patrick Ewing had a season-high 32 points and 15 rebounds Monday as the Knicks won for the ninth time in 10 games, beating the New Jersey Nets 107-90.

Ewing had 18 points in the decisive second quarter when the Knicks broke open the game. Derek Harper added 15 for New York.

Derrick Coleman had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who have lost five of seven games, and Kenny Anderson had 16.

The Knicks blew to a 62-41 halftime advantage and took a 77-51 lead on a 3-pointer by Hubert Davis with 3:40 left in the third quarter, a period in which the Nets missed 14 of 16 field goal attempts.

Bulls 109, Bulls 101: In Landover, Maryland, the Bulls ended their 10-game losing streak, getting 14 fourth-quarter points from Calbert Cheaney in a comeback victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Cheaney scored 23 and Juwan Howard 22 for the Bulls, who had been winless since beating the Los Angeles Clippers on the road Dec. 25. Washington also ended its eight-game home losing streak.

B.J. Armstrong had 26 points and Scottie Pippen 21 for the Bulls, who have lost three straight. Chicago's 18-18 record is its worst after 36 games since the 1985-86 team went 14-22.

Pistons 116, 76ers 110: In Philadelphia, Joe Dumars scored 35 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter, as the Detroit Pistons beat Philadelphia, sending the 76ers to their ninth consecutive loss.

Dumars, who made 12 of 18 shots, helped the Pistons pull away when he connected on a 3-pointer with 1:02 left, giving Detroit a 112-106 lead.

Rafael Addison and Allan Houston each had 18 points for the Pistons, with Houston perfect on four 3-point shots.

Dana Barros had 26 points and 12 assists for Philadelphia.

Hawks 99, Heat 95: In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored 20 points and Craig Ehlo 19 as the Hawks edged Miami, lifting their regular season home court record against the Heat to 12-0.

The Heat cut the lead to 98-95 with 18 seconds left on a basket by Glen Rice, who was fouled on the play. Rice missed the free throw. Atlanta got the rebound in a scramble and Blaylock eventually put the game on ice, hitting one of two free throws with just under eight seconds remaining.

Billy Owens led the Heat with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Rice added 21 points.

Lakers 96, Clippers 88: In Inglewood, California, Nick Van Exel scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and rookie Eddie Jones added 23 as the Lakers dealt the Clippers their sixth straight loss.

Cedric Ceballos scored six of his 18 points during a pivotal fourth-quarter rally and had 13 rebounds, helping the Lakers win for the 13th time in 15 games.

The Lakers turned a 12-point deficit into an 88-81 lead, outscoring the Clippers 23-4 during a 6-06 span of the fourth quarter.

Loy Vaught scored 18 points for the Clippers.

Warriors 77, Nuggets 73: In Oakland, California, Tom Gugliotta hit a 3-pointer with 41 seconds left as the Golden State Warriors broke an eight-game losing streak by beating Denver, playing its first game since the sudden resignation of coach Dan Issel.

With the score tied 73-73, Gugliotta hit from the top of the key as the 24-second clock was winding down. Tim Hardaway, who led the Warriors with 21 points, added a free throw with 12 seconds left.

Issel stepped down as coach on Sunday, complaining of burnout. Assistant coach Gene Littles took over as interim coach. Rodney Rogers led Denver with 20 points and Dikembe Mutombo had 15 rebounds.

Timberwolves 94, Rockets 75: In Minneapolis, Isaiah Rider scored 24 points and the Timberwolves held Houston to 28 second-half points in a 94-75 victory over the Rockets.

Minnesota kept the Rockets scoreless for a span of 5:31 early in the fourth quarter and used a 13-0 run to open an 80-62 lead with 7:04 to go.

Christian Laettner scored 15 points and Doug West had 11 points, six assists and a career-high 11 rebounds for the Wolves, who held Hakeem Olajuwon to 22 points.

Jazz 99, Pacers 98: In Indianapolis, the Jazz won their sixth straight game, scoring all six Utah points in overtime as the Jazz won their club-record 13th straight on the road with a 99-98 overtime victory over the Pacers.

Utah won its sixth straight overall and is 7-1 in January.

Florida financier agrees to Tampa Bay Buccaneers

TAMPA (AP) — Palm Beach financier Malcolm Glazer has agreed to buy the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for a record price, pledging to keep the team in town and — above all — win.

Glazer is believed to have paid as much as \$192 million for the team with the worst record in National Football League history. The late Hugh Culverhouse bought the club for \$16 million 21 years ago.

The three-man trust overseeing Culverhouse's estate declined to disclose the purchase price Monday but indicated it was more than the then-record \$185 million Jeff Lurie paid for the Philadelphia Eagles last year.

"I don't want to get into details," Glazer said at a news conference, where he was flanked by sons Joel and Bryan, who will help him run the team. "But it's the biggest price ever paid for a sports franchise in the world."

The new owner said he was committed to keeping the team in the Tampa Bay area, which campaigned to keep the club when it appeared it might be sold and moved to Baltimore.

Glazer insisted in the sale agreement that he keep the team in Tampa a minimum of two years. The contract also includes provisions for a \$35 million penalty if the team is relocated within 10 years.

"The buck stops here," he said. "Tampa Bay is going to have this team forever as far as the Glazer family is concerned."

The sale likely will become official in March when NFL owners meet in Phoenix. Twenty-three of the league's 30 owners must approve the deal. Until then, trustees Steve Story, Jack Donlan and Fred Cone will run the team.

The league said it was "pleased" by the agreement, and Glazer's commitment to keep the team in Tampa was an "important consideration."

The league shortly will begin a financial review of the sale.

Byran Glazer, emphasizing he and his brother will assist their father but not be involved in football operations, also said coach Sam Wyche — 16-32 in three seasons with the Bucs — and general manager Rich McKay will be retained for next season.

Malcolm Glazer, meanwhile, tried to reassure fans who have suffered through 12 consecutive seasons with 10 or more losses that he also is committed to winning.

"We're involved in several things, and they're all winners," said Glazer, who has financial holdings in 20 states. "We expect to win here, too."

The Glazer bid was believed to have included a base offer of just over \$170 million, leading to speculation that the final price might have included a \$20 million payment that would have been made to the trust if a new stadium is built for Glazer.

The agreement reportedly also includes provisions for additional payments to the Culverhouse family if renovations are made to Tampa Stadium.

The sale ended weeks of speculation about the future of the club, which was put up for sale on Nov. 10 — three months after the death of the only owner in the team's history.

Three of the five prospective ownership groups bidding for the team, including the Glazers, had connections to Baltimore, which lost the Colts to Indianapolis in 1984 and is trying to land a replacement.

Glazer, who came up short in five previous efforts to buy pro franchises, led an unsuccessful bid for an NFL expansion team for Baltimore 14 months ago.

The trustees rejected a \$163.3 million offer from Tampa developer Tommy Shannon last week. Another bidder pledging to keep the team in Tampa, New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, reportedly offered \$170 million.

Meanwhile, Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos submitted a two-tiered bid — \$205 million to move the team to Baltimore or \$170 million to operate the club in Tampa.

Another previously failed in attempts to buy the New England Patriots, San Diego Padres and Pittsburgh Pirates. He also made an unsuccessful bid to land an expansion baseball franchise that would have split its home games among four cities.

Esperance hope for Super Cup glory

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The Mediterranean port of Alexandria in Egypt is the unlikely setting for a match on Friday between clubs from Tunisia and Zaire to determine which is the best in Africa.

Originally scheduled for the 120,000-capacity Nasser Stadium in Cairo, the Super Cup final between Esperance and Daring Club Motema Pembe was switched because African Football Confederation (CAF) officials feared it would not attract many spectators.

CAF may also have been concerned about a possible spectator backlash against Esperance of Tunisia, who defeated Cairo giants Zamalek in a stormy African Champions' Cup final last month.

Zamalek were incensed by long delays in returning the ball at the Al Menzah Stadium in Tunis and the interim match erupted during the second half when players traded punches for five minutes.

After succeeding Zamalek as continental champions, Esperance aim to emulate them by lifting the Super Cup at the expense of Cup-winners' Cup holders Motema Pembe.

The match brings together two of the most prolific scorers in the 1994 club competitions — Ayadi Hamrouni of Esperance and Bamba Mandidi of Motema Pembe.

ports

After new Australian

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — He wears a checkered shirt and has yet to win a game. But Pat Rafter is common with Pat Rafter's names.

Rafter has lots of names. He has emerged as a favorite for Australia's tennis fans.

The 22-year-old has won over as Australia's top men's player at the world.

By the time he is crowned by the fiercely-crowded, Rafter edged to the second round of the Open Tennis Championships Tuesday with a seven-minute match.

Rafter, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, beat a crowd of 10,000 in the match — then the best to lift it into the final.

Rafter is the only Australian to have won the Australian Open since 1960.

He is the only Australian to have won the Australian Open since 1960.

He is the only Australian to have won the Australian Open since 1960.

World's golfers

United Arab Emirates — Zimbabwe's Greg Norman's victory in the 1994 Dubai Desert Classic starts the 1995 European Tour.

Norman, 34, won the \$450,000 tournament by a margin of one shot over the runner-up, South African Ernie Els.

The match brings together two of the most prolific scorers in the 1994 club competitions — Ayadi Hamrouni of Esperance and Bamba Mandidi of Motema Pembe.

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Yves Rocher in town

A BRANCH of the French Yves Rocher company supervised and managed by Abu Shakra Trading Agency was Monday opened in Sweifiyeh. The French ambassador in Amman delegated the commercial attache to open the branch. Several businessmen and visitors attended the ceremony: Yves Rocher company, which distributes its products in France, started branches in European and Arab markets only in 1992. The company follows a unique style in production, depends on producing an integrated line of cosmetics for people of all ages. At a press conference Monday Ms. Janine Eccles, a representative of Yves Rocher and Jumana Abdullah, representing Promopub company, outlined the company's history and marketing policies.

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NORTH
♠ K Q 3
♥ 7 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ J 10 2
EAST
♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ J 9 8 5 4 3
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ Void
SOUTH
♠ A 10 7
♥ 2
♦ 5 2
♣ A K 8 4
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠
South, declarer at six no trump, found the safer play to ensure the slam against any 5-0 club break. Unfortunately, failure to handle the closed-hand entries with sufficient care permitted a killing defensive countermove.
North-South had agreed to a 12-17 game for an opening bid of 1 NT, so South valued the hand as too strong for that action. Once South clarified the strength of the opening

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	Jim Carrey in THE MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Fifi Abdo, Mamduh Abdul Alim & Adel Adham in: The Banner Is Red Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The movie: The Lion King will be shown at 5 p.m. every evening as well as extra shows on Fridays and Thursdays at 10:30		CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 CONCORD "2" Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston THE BODYGUARD Shows: 3, 5		SUM'A in the satirical play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammed A. Shawaqfeh Daily from 8 p.m. Children's Play The Ninja Turtles Show Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.		Presents Abu Awwad In the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	
									Nabil & Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE Presents: AL SALAM YA SALAM The political satire: at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 in English Sunday	

Rafter is new Australian hero

MELBOURNE (AP) — He doesn't wear a checkered headband and has yet to win Wimbledon. But Pat Rafter has more in common with Pat Cash than first names.

Like Cash, Rafter has lots of ability, a similar attacking game and has emerged as a heart-throb for Australia's teenaged tennis fans.

The lanky 22-year-old has also taken over as Australia's top-ranked men's player at No. 21 in the world.

Cheered on by the fiercely-partisan crowd, Rafter edged into the second round of the Australian Open Tennis Championships Tuesday with a three-hour, seven-minute 6-3, 1-6, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 triumph over experienced Swiss player Jakob Hlasek.

The National Tennis Centre's retractable roof had been closed to allow the match to go ahead as rain delayed proceedings outside.

But the crowd — screaming "c'mon Pat" and "c'mon Aussie" at any opportunity throughout the match — then did their best to lift it with wild cheering after the Australian put away a Hlasek backhand on the fifth match point.

The win went some way to wiping away the disappointment of his third-round exit to Xavier Daufresne of Belgium last year, a match Australians had expected him to win.

"Last time on the centre court here I let a lot of people down, including myself," said Rafter, who beat a jet-lagged Andre Agassi in an exhibition event in Adelaide last week, and overcame a rash of onerous errors Tuesday.

"It was good to come back and show the crowd I can play and the reason why I'm the No. 1 in Australia," he said.

Rafter admitted to being nervous and the tension



Rising Australian Patrick Rafter dives for the ball

showed in a verbal outburst to a linesman who had called a Hlasek shot in at the start of the fourth set.

"Sometimes it's important to get rid of the frustration," said Rafter.

"If you keep it inside it can really upset your match ... I did lose it, but I had to go

thank him because he got me in full gear."

Rafter, who's originally from the remote mining community of Mt. Isa, Queensland, now bases himself in Bermuda.

Asked if he was recognised in the streets there, he replied: "No, there's all sorts of

high rollers there. I'm just a little fella."

If he can live up to his aims over the next two weeks that may change.

"I'm looking to try and win this event now," he said.

"Not to make the quarterfinals, semifinals ... I want to win the thing."

Australian Open Agassi, Sanchez Vicario advance as Sabatini and Ivanisevic crash out

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Andre Agassi and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario both breezed through their first-round matches Tuesday at the Australian Open — but only Sanchez Vicario left her opponent sobbing controllably.

Meanwhile Gabriela Sabatini suffered her most ignominious Australian Open loss when she joined Goran Ivanisevic as one of the big-name losers.

Sabatini, the Argentinean glamour girl of tennis who came here on the back of two consecutive tournament victories after ending a two-and-a-half year, 42-tournament drought, bowed out 6-4, 6-4 to by American Marianne Werdel Whitmeyer.

Patrick McEnroe of the United States knocked former winner and No. 3 seed Boris Becker out of the Australian Open in a first round match.

McEnroe defeated Becker 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) and will play Britain's Jeremy Bates in the next round.

Agassi made his long-awaited Australian Open debut with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win over South African qualifier Grant Stafford in only 90 minutes.

It was an impressively-controlled performance from the U.S. Open champion and No. 2 seed, who wore a typically colourful outfit and had a purple bandana tied around his head.

"The crowd got pretty excited," Agassi said.

Sanchez Vicario cruised equally imperiously past China's Fang Li in her women's singles opener, taking just 50 minutes to advance to the second round while reducing her opponent to tears.

The U.S. and French Open champion — the top seed in a Grand Slam tournament for

the first time in her career — downed her inexperienced opponent 6-2, 6-0.

The Chinese player repeatedly was left stranded by the power and pace of Sanchez Vicario's shots from the back of the court and wept into her towel after falling 0-5 behind in the second set.

Li cried until it was time to get back on court, then returned to play with her eyes puffy and tears on her cheeks. She made a total of 42 unforced errors and won just 24 points to Sanchez Vicario's 56.

Li said she "felt like a beginner" in the match.

"I couldn't do anything," she said. "Arantxa didn't kill me. I made a lot of mistakes. I thought I could do better. I was in a little bit of a hurry. I wanted to do everything. Sometimes I forget everything. I couldn't hit a ball."

Sanchez Vicario, who said she didn't even notice Li crying, tapped her on the back after they shook hands at the net, but there was little consolation she could offer.

"She's trying but she couldn't hit the ball on the court," Sanchez Vicario said. "She gets more frustrated."

Sanchez Vicario will overtake Steffi Graf at the top of the world rankings if she accumulates 655 rankings points at the Open. She almost certainly will need to win the tournament to do that.

Graf is absent from the first Grand Slam of the year with a calf muscle injury, ensuring a new women's champion. None of the women in the 128-draw event ever has won the Australian Open.

Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine caused the first upset of the tournament, ousting women's No. 9 seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria

4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

There was an upset, too, in the men's singles with Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, a semifinalist last week in Sydney, ousting No. 12 seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 despite suffering from tendinitis in his right serving arm.

"I'm very pleased with the win, especially because I haven't been feeling well," said Gaudenzi. "I didn't even feel like playing this morning, but I went out and fought for every point."

Play on outside courts was delayed for four hours by persistent rain, but continued on centre court after the retractable roof at the National Tennis Centre was closed.

Agassi said his new attitude towards tennis is the reason for his decision to play in the Australian Open for the first time.

"Being down here is a reflection of my commitment to tennis," he said. "In the past it interfered with my other priorities."

"Now tennis has become part of my life. This is not taxing at all, and it used to be."

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, is being played on rubberised rebound ace courts. It offers prize money of \$6.2 million and continues through Jan. 29.

Earlier Ivanisevic bemoaned his poor form as 94th-ranked Steeb rolled to a 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 victory.

Sabatini, cheered on by sections of blue and white face-daubed fans, called the trainer to manipulate a back injury during the second set and it was 10 minutes before she was able to resume playing.

Werdel Whitmeyer, ranked 47 and who beat Sabatini the last time they played, said

the conditions suited her.

"It was a first round match and Gaby had just had a long week last week and I was prepared to play her," said 27-year-old Werdel Whitmeyer from San Diego, California.

"When Gaby was getting treatment I tried to stay loose and kept concentrating... you have to continue what you were doing when plays starts again."

Sabatini said she experienced pain in the lower part of her back at the beginning of the second set.

"It was really painful and after the treatment the pain was still there, it was very tight in a certain spot," she said.

"She is a tough opponent and she didn't miss many balls... I didn't feel good with my shots."

Werdel is married to Ron Whitmeyer, who has had major league baseball experience with the Oakland A's.

Madagascar scores

Madagascar enjoyed its proudest tennis moment at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

In fact, teenager Dally Randrienty achieved the African island's only moment in tennis history, beating Argentine Florencia Labat 6-3, 7-6 on an outside court for Madagascar's first success at an international tournament.

Randrienty, 16, represents half of her country's professional ranks. Her 17-year-old sister Natasba makes up the other half.

She said she hoped her success might persuade her Swiss sponsor to reverse a decision to end their sponsorship assistance following a succession of failures in qualifying tournaments.

World's top golfers in Dubai Classic

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Zimbabwe's Nick Price, Australia's Greg Norman and Germany's Bernhard Langer, the top three of golf's world rankings, will head the challenge to defending champion Ernie Els of South Africa in the \$450,000 (\$675,000) Dubai Desert Classic.

The tournament runs from Jan. 19 to 22 at the Emirates Golf Club.

The Classic starts the 1995 Volvo PGA European Tour schedule, and with six of the world's top 10 having entered, can boast one of the strongest and most attractive fields outside a major championship.

Also appearing will be America's Fred Couples, the world No. 7 who missed the cut last year and wound up providing commentating for a local radio station.

He arrived early Monday and sped to the 18-hole course. Couples was voted by PGA players last year as the best on the tour.

"It's too early to comment on my chances in the classic, but I sure don't want to miss the cut this time," said Couples, the U.S. Ryder Cup player who helped United States win three world cups.

Trying out a few swings on the 9th hole on Monday was Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, ranked 8th. He has yet to win a major, having lost to Els in a play-off for last year's U.S. Open.

But the big Scot gained some consolation by topping the European money list for the second consecutive year.

Between them, these six players can boast nine major championships.

Els's stunning six-shot win last year was the prelude to a year which saw the 26-year-old shoot to superstar status with victories in the U.S. Open, Toyota World Match Play, Gene Sarazen World Open and the Johnny Walker World Championship.

He has already started this year by capturing the Bells Cup in his homeland.

His 29-under-par total at the Emirates Golf Club was founded on a record-breaking 11-under 61 in the first round.

Yet, he still had a hard fight in warding off the pursuing Norman, who despite a lung infection, shot four sub-70 rounds to finish second.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday meets with a delegation representing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (Petra photo)

King receives AIPAC team, reaffirms resolve for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan would pursue all efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East within the framework of the Madrid conference that launched Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with a visiting group representing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the King said the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular "are entering a new phase following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Oct. 26

that restored Jordanian lands and water rights."

"The peoples of this region aspire to stability and comprehensive development of which they have been deprived for many decades," added the King at the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi.

The King expressed his belief that the coming stage entails diverse challenges and stressed the need for mobilising "all efforts to deal with the challenges with resolve and commitment to achieve the aspirations of the people

living here and to attain the just and durable peace which enables them to direct their efforts towards development and serving the future generations."

The AIPAC group, led by its Chairman Steve Grossman, later met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, General Abdul Hafez Murai, at the Army Headquarters.

The group listened to a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their contributions to U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world.

Mafrag deputies, women panel begin dialogue

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday met with deputies representing Mafrag Governorate in the Lower House of Parliament as well as members of women's committees in a bid to build cooperation between the two sides and to shed light on women's needs in the governorate.

Participants in the meeting included Speaker of the Lower House Saad Hayel Srouf, Minister of State Mohammad Abu Aleem, deputies Abdul Karim Al Dughani, Nawaf Al Qadhi and Abdullah Akhu Isheidah.

Princess Basma said the priorities of women's committees and organisations were clearly defined, aiming first and foremost to change ways of thinking, boosting women's confidence in their capabilities and their ability to carry out a bigger role in the national development process.

The Princess said there was a need to change legislation on women. The National Women's Committee, which includes more than 1,000 members, prepared a programme and defined priorities to activate the role of women, she said pointing out that the committee's raison d'être was to serve as a link between the women's sector and deputies who can make women's voices heard in Parliament.

Mr. Srouf said Jordanian women had proved their ability to take part in all aspects of life in contrast to the view that men were more capable of working in politics. "Women vied for seats in parliament in the 1989 election and managed to win one seat in the 1993 election," said the speaker, who represents the Northern Bedouins of Jordan in the House.

Other speakers at the meeting included deputies Dughni, Abu Aleem and Akhu Isheidah, in addition to member of the Mafrag Women's Committee Laila Al Nu'aimi.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on Tuesday plant trees in Mafrag to mark Arbor Day (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan urges attention on developing farmlands

MAFRAQ (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday urged the concerned institutions and universities to give due attention to the development of agricultural land and irrigation.

Speaking during a tree-planting ceremony at Al al Beit University campus near Mafrag, the Crown Prince expressed hope that the coming years would witness a natural integration between the badia, the highlands and the Jordan Valley.

Prince Hassan said he was proud in the achievements of the university, "especially to

day when the university has ended its grand agricultural project by planting thousands of fruit and forest trees."

He urged the university to give due concern to developing the desert areas surrounding it in Mafrag Governorate.

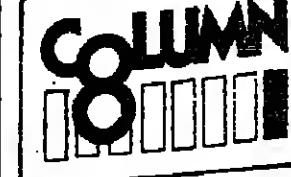
He also voiced hope that there would be integration between the residents of the badia regions, the highlands and the Jordan Valley and to avoid concentration on urban areas.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath addressed the ceremony and said that abuse of the environment by man

bad led to desertification and called for efforts to reverse that.

"What we see today is part of efforts exerted to achieve that end," the Princess said, underlining the importance of directing due concern to the agricultural sector not only by planting trees but also by providing enough care for them at later stages.

Al al Beit University President Adnan Al Bakhit said one of the aims of the university was to stop desertification and to develop about 8,000 dunums of land surrounding the university.



Black policemen lock out white colleagues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— About 100 black officers locked out their white colleagues at the Orlando Police Station in the nearby township of Soweto Monday, accusing them of racism. A spokesman for the POPCRU union said the incident was sparked by a white policeman calling a black officer a "kaffer," the worst racial epithet a South African white can direct at a black. The officers reopened the gates late in the morning, after officials from the provincial government of Gauteng — which covers the greater Johannesburg area and Pretoria — negotiated with the protestors. One officer, who was not named, told a private radio station that the action aimed to protest against "the racist attitude of the commander and other superior officers."

New Euro-MPs take their (flip-down) seats

STRASBOURG (AFP)

— Fifty-nine Euro-MPs from the EU's three newest member states took their seats in the European Parliament Monday — but only after they had flipped them down and slid into place. The cinema-style tip-up seats for the new members from Austria, Finland and Sweden have been installed pending work on the enlarged Strasbourg Hemicycle, which will not be fully ready until the end of 1997. The old parliament had 567 deputies, but has been expanded to 626 with the new members. Each of the new parliamentarians — 21 from Austria, 22 from Sweden and 16 from Finland — was greeted with a handshake from parliament President Klaus Haensch. "It is a very special day," said Mr. Haensch.

Plan to retrieve Drake's body hits trouble

LONDON (R)

— A plan to retrieve the body of British buccancer Sir Francis Drake from his watery grave in the Caribbean and bring it home for a ceremonial burial has run into trouble with the British navy. A British-led team of historians and salvage experts have raised £80,000 (\$125,000) to bring Drake to the surface after pinpointing where they believe the body of the famous 16th-century explorer lies off the Panamanian coast. But the Royal Navy is not in favour of the scheme. "It's the same thing as grave-snatching. He had an honourable burial at sea and we wish his remains to be undisturbed," a naval spokesman said Monday. "I would be very hacked off (angry) if anyone came along and nabbed (took) my body if I'd been buried at sea," he added. However, Panamanian authorities will make the final decision about Drake's body.

Sacked bishop joins homeless sit-in protest

PARIS (AFP)

— Jacques Gaillot, the controversial bishop sacked by the Vatican last week, Monday joined a protest by some 100 homeless people who entered and occupied a Paris social security office, officials said. The demonstration was to protest against French social security rules which prevent people between the ages of 18-25 from receiving statutory minimum income, thereby forcing many of them onto the streets. The protestors occupied the social security office in Paris' 14th Arrondissement, and presented a list of 10 young people for whom they were demanding benefits. Gaillot was sacked as bishop of the Normandy city of Evreux on Friday for disobeying Catholic orthodoxy. The 59-year-old cleric upset the Catholic hierarchy by, among other things, giving interviews to the French gay magazine L'Espresso and a magazine for homosexuals, Gay-Fied. The Vatican said he consistently failed to hold warnings about his unorthodox behaviour and opinions. He said Friday that he was disappointed at the Vatican decision, but added that it would give him more freedom to help others.

Kurdish fighting subsides

BAGHDAD (Agencies)

— Fighting between rival Kurdish groups has died out in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil but the situation is still tense, a U.N. official said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Zejjari, U.N. coordinator in Iraq, said U.N. relief officials in the city, the scene of recent heavy fighting, were continuing to distribute food and fuel to needy Kurds, albeit cautiously.

"The situation is better than the day before yesterday," Mr. Zejjari told Reuters. "The relief programme

is going on cautiously in Erbil."

According to what I hear there is no fighting now, but the situation is still tense," Mr. Zejjari said Tuesday.

On Monday he said he feared for the safety of his staff in the area, including 82 U.N. troops and 120 international relief officials. The factional fighting, he said, had led to a breakdown of law and order in parts of Iraqi Kurdistan.

One of the two main Iraqi Kurdish groups battling for control of Erbil in Iraq Monday rejected an offer of

mediation from Baghdad to halt the fighting.

Sami Abdul Rahman, a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) leadership, told Radio Monte Carlo he ruled out "attaching any credit to such mediation," adding that the offer was only "an Iraqi government opinion."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein offered to reopen a dialogue with the KDP and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), following a cabinet meeting Monday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Damen-Masri meets Wazir

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri Tuesday received Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Minister of Social Affairs Intissar Al Wazir. Ms. Damen-Masri and Ms. Wazir discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in social development and coordinating stands at the international development summit to be held in Copenhagen and the women's summit to be held in Peking this year.

Jordan fifth in peacekeeping troop strength

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan ranks fifth in the world in terms of the number of troops participating in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world, according to a report issued recently by the United Nations. The report said the number of Jordanian troops stands at 3,614. Pakistan ranked first with a total number of 9,110, followed by France 5,149, Senegal with 4,271 and Britain with 3,820. Thirty-nine countries contribute 69,356 troops to peacekeeping operations around the world.

Israeli pilot dies as two jets collide

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One Israeli pilot died and a second was lightly injured when their jet fighter planes collided over the Mediterranean coast on Tuesday, the army said. The injured man ejected safely and parachuted into the sea from where he was picked up by a rescue boat. The other pilot was apparently died in his cockpit but his body ejected and the chute drifted in strong winds, an army statement said. The army did not identify the type of jets involved.

Bahraini sheikh leaves Gulf for London

NICOSIA (AFP) — Leading Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Ali Salman left Dubai Tuesday two days after being deported there from Bahrain and flew to London, the Bahraini opposition-in-exile said. The Shiite leader may ask for political asylum in Britain where several Bahraini opposition movements are already based, opposition sources told AFP. They did not say if he was accompanied. The arrest of Sheikh Salman on Dec. 5 sparked a wave of street clashes between hundreds of young Shiites and security forces in Bahrain. The sheikh was released Sunday and deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates along with other Shiite leaders sheikhs Hamza Dori and Haidar Sitri. Bahrain admitted only expelling a "group of individuals" whose "responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved."

5 held in July 26 bombing in London

LONDON (AFP) — Five people have been arrested in connection with the bombing of the Israeli embassy and a Jewish charitable agency here last July, Scotland Yard said Tuesday. A spokesman said the five, whose names and nationalities were not given, had been arrested after "intensive investigations" and were being held under provisions of Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act. The embassy was heavily damaged and 20 persons were injured on July 26 by a bomb left in a car parked on a private road close to the building. A woman described as being of Middle Eastern appearance was briefly detained and questioned by police in the embassy bombing after two witnesses provided details for an artist's sketch, but she was released after about an hour. The charity was bombed the following day, drawing bitter criticism from Israel that sufficient security measures had not been taken around Israeli interests here in the wake of the embassy bomb.

Arab Israelis protest Chechenya war

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of Arab Israelis demonstrated Tuesday in front of the Russian embassy here against Moscow's assault on the breakaway republic of Chechenya. The protestors from the "Islamic Movement" brandished banners denouncing Russia's military intervention in the Caucasus republic and accusing Moscow of "behaving like Nazis." The demonstration, which was authorised by police, ended without incident.

Bhutto to visit U.S. in April

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit the United States this April in a bid to attract investors to her country, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Ms. Bhutto is expected to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and also is likely to meet with potential investors in New York and Los Angeles, said the News, an English-language daily. The Pakistani premier is expected to arrive on or about April 10 and will spend a week in the United States.

U.S. general praises Jordanian force

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has the right to feel extremely proud of the Jordanian army which he established and nurtured until it became a source of pride for all those who have known its superior and admirable military performance, commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) American forces General John Sheahan said Tuesday. Speaking from Washington in a satellite press conference organised by the United States Information Agency (USIA), Gen. Sheahan said the Jordanian peacekeeping troops in Haiti were highly prepared, well-trained and experienced. He emphasised that the Jordanian force in Haiti was a success story of the peacekeeping operations in that part of the world since Jordan, along with other international forces, is contributing to safeguarding peace, democracy and human rights in several areas of the world. He described the Jordanian troops as professional and said he wished to work alongside with them in the future.

British defence minister tours Gulf

RIYADH (AP) — British Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind arrived Tuesday amid tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen over border intrusions. Diplomats said Mr. Rifkind, who is also scheduled to visit the United Arab Emirates, will hold talks with Saudi leaders to review regional security issues, with border tension with Yemen expected to top the agenda. The diplomats said the talks would also deal with the Chechenya question and Britain's peacekeeping role in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Military cooperation would also be discussed, they said, without elaborating.

Judge convicts Jewish settler

TEL AVIV (AP) — A court sentenced a Jewish settler to ten months in prison for attempting to make silencers for an underground group suspected of planning attacks on Arabs, his attorney confirmed Tuesday. Michael Mor-Yosef, 43, from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba outside Nablus, was convicted Monday of unsuccessfully trying to create silencers for an Uzi and an M-16 for Rabbi Ido Elba, another Kiryat Arba resident. Rabbi Elba is the central figure in a series of arrests that began last September during a police investigation into a Jewish underground developing in the West Bank. The group, which included an army officer, is suspected of conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks against Arabs in the West Bank.

Gulf crisis fund studying claims but has little to pay out

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A special United Nations committee is continuing to process claims for compensation for losses suffered during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, but there is no clear indication of when approved claims would be settled because of lack of funds, a senior official of the panel said Monday.

Michael Rabin, assistant secretary-general of the Geneva-based committee set up after the war over Kuwait in 1991, said the panel had received "less than \$50 million" since its inception.

The budget of the committee itself is \$40 million for a four-year period covering 1995, leaving less than \$10 million available for settlement of claims, he noted.

"We have a massive operation which now involves more than 100 experts," Mr. Rabin told the Jordan Times in an interview.

In mid-1994, the U.N. fund paid out \$2.7 million to 670 claimants — including 241 Jordanians — in category "B," which deals with claims resulting from death in the family or serious personal injury suffered as a direct consequence of the seven-month Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

A second instalment of settlement, worth \$5.2 million, under the same category was drawn up in late 1994, but the governing council of the committee decided to freeze payment until it received additional funds, Mr. Rabin said.

The committee's task is limited to evaluating the claims with supporting documents and making recommendations to the governing

council, which has the final say in making the actual payment.

Mr. Rabin said the committee had received 813 category "B" applications from Jordan. In the mid-1994 first instalment, 232 applications were "not recommended for payment," 241 (worth \$982,000) were approved, 24 were classified as miscellaneous claims that needed more information and six were transferred to other categories.

In the as-yet unsettled second instalment, the committee studied 80 Jordanian claims; it approved 40 claims, worth \$202,500, turned down 32, sought more information on seven others, and moved one to another category.

Mr. Rabin, who is in Amman to discuss the technical aspects of Jordanian claims — individual, business and government applications — said: "We do not know when the approved claimants could receive the payments since funds are not yet available."

The U.N. official, an American national, said the committee expected to complete processing all category B claims — around 5,500 of them from all over the world — by March this year. Categories "A" and "C" — involving losses suffered as a result of forced departure from Kuwait and property and personal losses during the crisis — are also given priority. These would involve more than 100,000 applications from Jordan.

The committee expects to have finished processing all applications in the three categories by mid- to late 1996 before starting to study claims from businesses and governments with an open-ended mandate to finish its task that would involve bil-

lions of dollars, Mr. Rabin said.

The "period of jurisdiction" of the committee is Aug. 2, 1990 to March 2, 1991 — the date of the Iraqi invasion to the date when the last Iraqi soldier left Kuwait. But the panel would consider claims beyond this period if it could be proved that the loss was a direct result of an incident that happened during this period.

Total claims filed by seven Jordanian ministries as government losses as a result of the crisis reached about \$4 billion, with an equal amount sought by individual and corporate claimants from Jordan.

Mr. Rabin, who has visited several other countries with a large number of Gulf crisis-related claims, arrived here on Sunday and held talks over the past three days with Minister of Labour Nadir Abu Sha'ar, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samir Darwazah, Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri and Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad, as well as with officials of the voluntary Returnee Compensation Committee.

The U.N. official is scheduled to meet with representatives of the businesses which have filed claims each worth more than \$100,000 for an exchange of views on how and when their claims would be processed.

Asked whether Jordan's quest for compensation for the losses it suffered as indirect result of the Gulf crisis — the de facto blockade of the port of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq — was part of his discussions here, Mr.

(Continued on page 7)